



Cook County Landlord Eviction Checklist

Questions about evictions in Cook County? Call [Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt](#) at 855-956-5763 to speak with a lawyer for free.



1. Before You Start, Consider All Your Options

- RENTAL ASSISTANCE:** You may be eligible for up to \$25,000 in rental assistance payments. To learn more, visit <https://chicookilrenthelp.org/> or call **855-956-5763**.
- MEDIATION:** You may be able to work out a resolution with your tenant without going to court. The [Center for Conflict Resolution](#) offers free mediation. Call **312-922-6464 x 22** or email newcase@ccrchicago.org.



2. Make Sure You Have All Your Paperwork

You can find all of the forms required to file an eviction case and more at [Chicago Volunteer Legal Services](#), or call **855-956-5763** for additional assistance with filing an eviction case in Cook County.

- EVICTIION NOTICE:** Before you can file a case, you must give your tenant an eviction notice and wait the number of days stated in the notice.
- NOTICE/AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE:** This is a sworn statement that will tell the judge *how* and *when* you gave your tenant the Eviction Notice.
- LEASE:** Include a copy of both the lease and the Eviction Notice when you file your case. **If you never had a written lease with your tenant, you should include a sworn statement about your understanding of the terms of the lease.**
- AFFIDAVIT ABOUT MISSING DOCUMENTS:** If you do not have the Eviction Notice, Affidavit of Service, or Lease, include an Affidavit that tells the judge what the missing paperwork said.
- COMPLAINT and SUMMONS:** You must complete these forms that explain why you are filing a case and how the tenant can respond.



3. Begin Your Court Case

- COURT FEES:** You will need to pay a fee to file your case. If you cannot afford the fee, you may call (312) 603-5030 to ask the court clerk about applying for a fee waiver.
- E-FILING:** All court papers must be filed electronically. If you need help filing or do not have access to a computer, call 872-529-1093.
- SERVICE:** After you have filed your court papers, you will need to pay a fee for them to be delivered to your tenant by the Sheriff.