



Opening opportunities for justice

IllinoisLegalAid.org

Free legal information for people without lawyers

Amy Clark, Community Engagement Director

ILAO's purpose

Illinois Legal Aid Online simplifies the law so all people can resolve their problems.

We want people to

- understand their legal options,
- make informed decisions, and
- represent themselves in court when necessary.



ILAO empowers people



I was able to use this article to finally understand the difference between all of these various hearings that we have already attended and those that are ahead of us. Thank you!

--Joshua; Read [Responding to a Lawsuit](#) for information about hearings - March 2021

About IllinoisLegalAid.org



- More than **1800 resources** (articles, guides, forms, and videos) that are accurate and up-to-date
- All **legal information** (mostly civil, IL and some federal law, no advice); always **free!**
- Covers issues affecting **lower-income people**
- **Accessible**
 - Device-responsive design
 - English / Spanish / Polish
 - Plain language (6th to 8th grade reading level)
 - ADA compliant

Why do people need ILAO?

[can't we just refer them to local legal aid?]

This is the “justice gap”

Because there are only 400 legal aid lawyers in IL . . . only **26%** of the people who seek help with a legal problem are able to get free legal aid.



This is why **Illinois Legal Aid Online** exists . .

People turn to ILAO for help



ILAO helps more
than **68,000**
people every week



How to use
IllinoisLegalAid.org
to help people find
legal information,
court forms, and
legal referrals



Legal Information vs. Advice

Legal Advice

Only lawyers can give legal advice. It is **illegal** to give legal advice if you are not a lawyer.

This is called the **Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL)**.



Legal Information

Anyone can give legal information.

We train you how to help people find legal resources and forms on

[IllinoisLegalAid.org](https://www.IllinoisLegalAid.org). This is information, NOT advice.





Legal information vs. advice

Legal information

- Provides facts about the law and the legal process
- Tells someone **who, when, where, how?**
- Is neutral

Legal advice

- Tells someone **what to do**
- Requires specific details about the case



THANK YOU!



Contact Amy Clark at
aclark@illinoislegalaid.org to
order referral cards or flyers and
to be added to our LSHC
Directory
