

Getting Started: Application for Waiver of Criminal and/or Traffic Court Assessments in Cook County

IMPORTANT: This getting started guide and the instructions are not legal advice. They are only meant to help you learn how to use the *Application for Waiver of Criminal and/or Traffic Court Assessments For Use in Cook County Only* and the *Order for Waiver of Criminal and/or Traffic Court Assessments For Use in Cook County Only* forms. Your use of the forms does not guarantee you will be successful in court.

To learn how to fill out the forms and file them with the court, read the *How to Ask the Court to Waive Criminal and/or Traffic Court Assessments in Cook County* instruction sheet and the instructions on the forms.

Names of the forms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Application for Waiver of Criminal and/or Traffic Court Assessments for Use in Cook County Only</i> • <i>Order for Waiver of Criminal and/or Traffic Court Assessments for Use in Cook County Only</i>
Purpose of the forms:	To ask the court to excuse you from having to pay all or any part of the fee assessments in your case.
Types of cases the forms CAN be used for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook County Cases Only • All criminal cases, including felony and misdemeanor cases. • Traffic and petty offenses in Schedules 2, 6, 9, 10, and 13 of Article 15 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act.
Types of cases the forms CANNOT be used for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All civil and juvenile cases and any fee assessments resulting from violations of the Illinois Vehicle Code in the schedules not listed above. If you need to ask for a fee waiver in a civil case, you can use the <i>Application for Waiver of Court Fees</i> form found here: illinoiscourts.gov/documents-and-forms/approved-forms.
Cost to File the forms:	None.
Special information or papers needed to complete the forms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will need to know your income and expenses for the past 12 months. You also need to know the value of your belongings, including any real estate. • If you are filling this form out on behalf of a minor, you will need that person's information. • If you get public benefits, bring current proof of eligibility and a benefits statement from the agency providing the benefit when you file your forms. • If you don't get public benefits, bring documents showing your income, value of belongings (including real estate) and expense information when you file your forms.
Statutes and court rules covering the forms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 725 ILCS 5/124A-20 and 705 ILCS 135/Article 15 • Illinois Supreme Court Rule 404
Where to find the forms and instruction sheet:	illinoiscourts.gov/documents-and-forms/approved-forms
For more information:	Read the <i>How to Ask the Court to Waive Criminal and/or Traffic Court Assessments in Cook County</i> instruction sheet that comes with these forms. You may also find more information, resources, and the location of your local county self-help center at: illinoislegalaid.org/FeeWaiver .