



Supreme Court of Illinois

March 27, 2025

SUPREME COURT APPROVES FREE REMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS TO REVIEWING COURT DOCUMENTS EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2025

The Illinois Supreme Court today entered an order allowing free remote public access to reviewing court documents effective May 1, 2025. The reviewing courts include the Illinois Supreme Court and the five appellate courts.

The order includes three elements:

1. The reviewing courts shall submit all non-confidential documents filed in cases filed on or after April 1, 2025, to re:SearchIL.
2. Beginning May 1, 2025, non-confidential cases and documents filed on or after April 1, 2025, by the reviewing courts to re:SearchIL shall be made available in re:SearchIL to all user groups in the [Illinois Supreme Court Remote Access Policy](#).
3. Effective immediately, the fee for electronic remote access to documents imposed pursuant to [Supreme Court Rule 313\(c\)](#) is suspended until further order of the Court.

This order furthers the Supreme Court’s goal of providing statewide remote public access to non-confidential court documents. Since late last summer, a working group convened by the Supreme Court has been working toward implementation of public access to records of the reviewing court. The working group is headed by Appellate Justice Eugene Doherty.

“The Court is pleased to make these statewide records available online for the public free of charge,” Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis said. “This was no easy lift. It is something that has never been done in Illinois and required a tremendous effort to make happen.”

Throughout the process, the Supreme Court has had to balance two competing goals: easy public access to reviewing court records while also protecting confidential information that may be contained in those records. The balance has been struck by setting a “going forward” date for record availability. Records from April 1, 2025, going forward will be available once public access is opened on May 1, 2025. Additional information is available in an FAQ sheet included with this release.

With public access to reviewing court documents now set, the Court will shift focus to statewide public access in the 102 county courts.

(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Chris Bonjean, Chief Communications Officer of the Illinois Supreme Court at cbonjean@illinoiscourts.gov.)

FAQ's for Public Access to Reviewing Court Records via re:SearchIL

- ***When will public access occur?*** Public access to reviewing court records will occur on May 1, 2025, via the re:SearchIL portal available [here](#).
- ***What kinds of cases are excluded from public access?*** Cases which are not public in the circuit courts, such as juvenile cases, will also not be accessible in the reviewing courts via re:SearchIL.
- ***In other non-confidential case types, will all records be available?*** No, not all records are available. The record on appeal generated by the circuit court will not be available via re:SearchIL. Additionally, any documents with a confidentiality designation pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 8 will not be available.
- ***What about records filed prior to April 1?*** Any non-confidential record filed on or after April 1, 2025, will be available. Individual reviewing courts may endeavor to make available documents filed prior to that date if they are able to adequately address any confidentiality concerns relating to these earlier-filed documents.
- ***Are there any other wrinkles relating to the transition that attorneys and litigants should know about?*** Prior to May 1, 2025, any litigant or attorney who has already had access to their case files and is still working on an active appeal may wish to download any documents in their cases filed prior to April 1, 2025, as they may lose access to them thereafter.