

M.R. 3140

**IN THE  
SUPREME COURT  
OF  
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Order entered September 29, 2021.

(Deleted material is struck through, and new material is underscored.)

Effective January 1, 2022, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 281, 552, and 589 are amended, and new Rule 8 is adopted, as follows.

**Amended Rule 281**

**Rule 281. Definition of Small Claim**

For the purpose of the application of Rules 281 through 288, a small claim is a civil action based on either tort or contract for money not in excess of \$10,000, exclusive of interest and costs; ~~or for the collection of taxes not in excess of that amount.~~

The order entered December 6, 2005, amending Rule 281 and effective January 1, 2006, shall apply only to cases filed after such effective date.

Amended effective December 15, 1966; amended May 27, 1969, effective July 1, 1969; amended January 5, 1981, effective February 1, 1981; amended December 3, 1996, effective January 1, 1997; amended December 6, 2005, effective January 1, 2006; amended Sept. 29, 2021, eff. Jan. 1, 2022.

**Committee Comments**

(Revised ~~December 6, 2005~~ January 1, 2022)

This rule was based on paragraph A of former Rule 9-1 which was in effect from January 1, 1964, to January 1, 1967. The only changes of substance made by the 1967 revision were increasing the upper limit of a small claim from \$200 to \$500, including tax-collection cases in the definition, and adding the phrase “based on either tort or contract.” The limit was further increased to \$1,000 by the 1969 amendment, and to \$2,500 by amendment in 1981.

Rule 281 was amended in 2005 to increase the jurisdictional limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. As the change will require a modification to the allocation of judicial resources, the change was made applicable only to new cases and does not apply to pending cases.

Rule 281 was amended effective January 1, 2022, to remove tax collection cases up to \$10,000 from being filed as a small claims case.

**FILED**

SEP 29 2021

**SUPREME COURT  
CLERK**

## Amended Rule 552

### Rule 552. Uniform Tickets—Processing

Uniform Citation and Complaint forms and conservation complaints shall be in forms which may, from time to time, be approved by the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges and filed with this court. The uniform forms shall be adapted for use by municipalities.

The arresting officer shall complete the form or ticket and, within 48 hours after the arrest, shall transmit the portions entitled “Complaint” and, where appropriate, “Disposition Report” and/or “Report of Conviction,” either in person, by mail, or electronically where authorized by the Supreme Court, to the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which the violation occurred. Each Uniform Citation and Complaint form and conservation complaint shall upon receipt by the clerk be assigned a separate case number, chronologically, ~~excluding including~~ multiple citations issued to the same accused for more than one offense arising out of the same occurrence (see Rule 503(a)). Each accused shall be assigned a single case number containing multiple counts when more than one citation is issued arising out of the same occurrence. A final disposition shall be evidence of the judgment in the case. Upon final disposition of each case, the clerk shall execute a Disposition Report and promptly forward it to the law enforcement agency that issued the ticket. On a plea or finding of guilty in any traffic case, the clerk shall also execute a Report of Conviction, if and as applicable, and such other reports as required by section 6-204 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, as amended (625 ILCS 5/6-204) and promptly forward same to the Secretary of State. This rule does not prohibit the use of electronic or mechanical systems of record keeping, transmitting or reporting.

Amended effective October 7, 1970; amended February 17, 1977, effective April 1, 1977, in counties other than Cook, effective July 1, 1977, in Cook County; amended December 22, 1981, effective January 15, 1982; amended April 27, 1984, effective July 1, 1984; amended March 27, 1985, effective May 1, 1985; amended June 26, 1987, effective August 1, 1987; amended June 19, 1989, effective August 1, 1989; amended September 30, 2002, effective immediately; amended Dec. 29, 2017, eff. Jan. 1, 2018; amended Sept. 29, 2021, eff. Jan. 1, 2022.

## Amended Rule 589

### Rule 589. Uniform Civil Law Citations—Processing

Uniform Civil Law Citation forms shall be in a form, which may from time to time be approved by the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges and filed with this court. The uniform form shall be adapted for use by municipalities. The law enforcement officer shall complete the form or citation and, within 48 hours after the issuance, shall transmit the portions entitled “Complaint” and “Disposition Report,” either in person or by mail, to the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which the violation occurred. Each Uniform Civil Law Citation form shall, upon receipt by the clerk, be assigned a separate case number, numbered chronologically, ~~excluding including~~ multiple citations issued to the same accused for more than one violation arising out of the same occurrence. Each accused shall be assigned a single case number containing multiple counts when more than one citation is issued arising out of the same occurrence. A final disposition noted on

the reverse side of the “Complaint” shall be evidence of the judgment in the case. Upon final disposition of each case, the clerk shall execute the “Disposition Report” and promptly forward it to the law enforcement agency that issued the citation. This rule does not prohibit the use of electronic or mechanical systems of record keeping, transmitting, or reporting.

Adopted Sept. 1, 2016, eff. immediately; amended Sept. 29, 2021, eff. Jan. 1, 2022.

## **New Rule 8**

### **Rule 8. Case and Document Accessibility**

**(a)** All cases and documents are presumed to be accessible by the court and the clerk. Clerks shall limit access to case information and documents that are not identified as public to the clerk and/or limited supervisory staff through the use of access codes restricting access. Access to court records and documents remotely over the Internet shall be as authorized by the Illinois Supreme Court Remote Access Policy.

**(b)** Unless otherwise specified by Rule, statute or order of court, access to case information and documents maintained by the clerk are defined as follows:

(1) “Public” means a document or case that is accessible by any person upon request.

(2) “Impounded” means a document or case that is accessible only to the parties of record on a case; otherwise, the document or case is only accessible upon order of court.

(3) “Confidential” means a document or case that is accessible only to the party submitting the document or filing the case; otherwise, the document or case is only accessible upon order of court.

(4) “Sealed” means a document or case that is accessible only upon order of court.

(5) “Expunged” means a document or case that is accessible only upon order of court as provided in section 5.2(E) of the Criminal Identification Act (20 ILCS 2630/5.2(E)).

**(c)** Notwithstanding the above, the court may enter an order restricting access to any case or document per order of court.

Adopted Sept. 29, 2021, eff. Jan. 1, 2022.