

DU PAGE COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS NIGHT COURT FOR PRO SE LITIGANTS



DuPage County Judicial Circuit Court
505 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE

The Eighteenth Judicial Circuit is pleased to provide "Night Court for pro se litigants." We hope that this schedule permits parties representing themselves to minimize time off from work for court appearances, and eliminate waiting in courtrooms during long hearings in other cases with attorneys. It is important, however, that you be prepared to present your case or defense fully to the judge on the first hearing date.

The law requires judges to follow the rules of evidence and procedure even if a litigant is representing themselves. What kind of proof is necessary for you will depend on your claim or defense. Are you asking the court to increase or decrease child support? Are you asking the court to enforce judgment for child support or some other award in the divorce judgment? If the judge has insufficient information to decide the case, he or she may require you to come back and bring additional information with you. This brochure is designed to provide you with some basic information to assist you in presenting your case or defense. But we urge you to also use the resources available in the law library or on-line to prepare your motion or answer with care, and provide all of the required information for your claim or defense.

We hope that our pro se court provides a benefit to you and other pro se litigants.

Good luck.

Judge Rodney Equi

Frequently Asked Questions

Who may bring a case to Night Court?

Pro se court is for litigants representing themselves (without an attorney) and for certain types of cases but excluding custody visitation.

Note: Children are not permitted in the courtroom and child care will not be available

What kind of cases are eligible for Night Court?

Domestic Relations "Night Court" is an evening court for pro se litigants with family law cases involving money or enforcement of a divorce judgment.

When is Night Court?

Every Thursday at 4:00 pm

Where does Night Court take place?

Du Page County Judicial
Court Room 1003
505 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Note: Courthouse security will be present and you will have to pass through a security screening.

How do I get my case heard in night court?

Your pro se case is scheduled through domestic relations scheduling like any other divorce case.

How do I give notice to the other party?

Obtain a "Notice of Motion" and "motion" form from the Circuit Clerk.

Contact the Case Scheduler for a hearing date.

Have your "Notice of Motion" and "Motion/Petition" file stamped by the Circuit Clerk.

Mail copies of your "Notice of Motion" and "Motion/Petition" to the opposing party at least 2 weeks before the court date.

What happens if the other party decides to get a lawyer?

Your file may be transferred back to the morning court call unless both you and the lawyer agree to keep the case in night court.

What happens if I need additional help or legal advice?

You always have the right to consult with an attorney at your own expense or attempt to qualify for Legal Aid.

What should I bring to court with me?

Depending on your type of case, the judge may want to see any of the following:

Child Support Account Status Report from the court clerk's office, if you are seeking to collect child support arrearages.

If you are trying to collect unpaid medical bills for your child(ren); information regarding any insurance that you have through your work, whether your child(ren) is covered or not, including costs and premiums, or extraordinary medical, dental, or educational expenses for the child(ren)

Employment and pay information, including pay stubs, 1099 and w-2 forms to show income for increases or decreases in child (ren) support.

Proof of any disability payments, worker's compensation, and/or unemployment benefits received for you or your child(ren) to show income for increases or decreases in child support.

Proof of any child support made direct to the custodial parent, including canceled checks, money order receipts, or other proof of child support.

Proof of payments of extracurricular or day care expenses.

Evidence of medical bills for the birth of the child(ren) that were not paid for by insurance (paternity cases only).

Contact Information

Circuit Court Clerk

505 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
630-407-8700

Child Support

630-407-8699

Domestic Relations

Case Scheduler
630-407-8854

DuPage Bar Legal Aid Service

126 S. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
630-653-6212

Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.

350 South Schmale,
Suite 150
Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
630-690-2130
630-690-2308 TTY

DuPage County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Services

126 S. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
630-653-9109
630-653-7870 fax
www.dcba.org