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PUBLIC NOTICE LAW

Public notices inform citizens of the everyday activities of government. From government spending to developing new policies, it is important for people to be informed of actions taken by public officials that affect citizens' everyday lives. Public Notices are essential to a democracy and an informed citizenry. Without Public Notices, citizens cannot properly and adequately make informed decisions.

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While the Internet is a great resource for information, public notices have been and remain most effective in newspapers. Newspapers are the watchdogs of their local communities and can most effectively monitor the actions of their respective local governments. This not only allows local residents to be informed but it also forces local public officials to be held accountable. Additionally, Notices in newspapers are permanent records that cannot be altered or deleted. They are also more accessible as anyone can have access to a newspaper as opposed to the internet.

In Illinois, legislators recognized the importance of maintaining an accountable and transparent government by first requiring the publishing of Public Notices in newspapers followed by uploading them to one centralized website. Effective December 31, 2012, Illinois law will require that all public notices and legal advertisements published in Illinois newspapers be uploaded to a centralized web site maintained by a majority of Illinois newspapers. This is to be done at no additional cost to any government entity. This site, PublicNoticeIllinois.com, meets the requirements of the new law and will be maintained by the Illinois Press Association which represents nearly 500 Illinois newspapers.

THE BOTTOM LINE, YOU WILL SOON FIND EVERY LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLISHED IN ILLINOIS ON THIS SITE.

Illinois' Public Notice law is found in Chapter 715 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes and can be found by [clicking here \(http://www.legis.gov/legislation/lis/lisc2.asp?ChapterID=52\)](http://www.legis.gov/legislation/lis/lisc2.asp?ChapterID=52).



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Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 96-1144)

Sec. 2. Whenever an officer of a court, unit of local government, or school district is required by law to give notice by publication in a newspaper which is published in a particular unit of local government or school district, he shall, if there is no newspaper which is published in the unit of local government or school district, give notice by publication in a newspaper published in the county in which the unit of local government or school district is located and having general circulation within the unit of local government or school district. If there is no newspaper published in the county in which the unit of local government or school district is located, notice by publication in a newspaper shall be given in a secular newspaper, as defined in this Act, published in an adjoining county having general circulation within the unit of local government or school district.

(Source: P.A. 96-1144, eff. 12-31-12.)

(715 ILCS 5/2.1)

(This Section may contain text from a Public Act with a delayed effective date)

Sec. 2.1. Statewide website. Whenever notice by publication in a newspaper is required by law, order of court, or contract, the newspaper publishing the notice shall, at no additional cost to government, place the notice on the statewide website established and maintained as a joint venture of the majority of Illinois newspapers as a repository for such notices.

(Source: P.A. 96-1144, eff. 12-31-12.)

(715 ILCS 5/3) (from Ch. 100, par. 3)

Sec. 3. Whenever notice is required by law, or order of court, and the number of publications is not specified, it shall be intended that the same be published for three successive weeks.

(Source: R.S. 1874, p. 723.)

(715 ILCS 5/3.1) (from Ch. 100, par. 3.1)

(Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 96-1144)

Sec. 3.1. When any notice is required by law, or order of court, to be published in any newspaper, publication of such notice shall include the printing of such notice in the total circulation of each edition on the date of publication of the newspaper in which the notice is published.

(Source: P.A. 83-1483.)

(Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 96-1144)

Sec. 3.1. When any notice is required by law, or order of court, to be published in any newspaper, publication of such notice shall include the printing of such notice in the total circulation of each edition on the date of publication of the newspaper in which the notice is published; and the newspaper publishing the notice shall, at no additional cost to government, place the notice on the statewide website established and maintained as a joint venture of the majority of Illinois newspapers as a repository for such notices. All notices required for publication by this Act shall remain legal and valid for all purposes when any error that occurs pursuant to the requirements of this Section for placement of the notice on the statewide website is the fault of the printer.

(Source: P.A. 96-1144, eff. 12-31-12.)

(715 ILCS 5/4) (from Ch. 100, par. 4)

Sec. 4. When any notice is required by law or order of court, or any contract, and it is not otherwise provided, it shall be sufficient to publish the same in a weekly newspaper.

(Source: P.A. 85-253.)

(715 ILCS 5/5) (from Ch. 100, par. 5)

(Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 96-1144)

Sec. 5. When any notice is required by law or contract to be published in a newspaper (unless otherwise expressly provided in the contract), it shall be intended to be in a secular newspaper of general circulation, published in the city, town or county, or some newspaper specially authorized by law to publish legal notices, in the city, town, or county. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the contract, the term "newspaper" means a newspaper

(a) which consists of not less than 4 pages of printed matter and contains at least 100 square inches of printed matter per page; and

(b) which is printed through the use of one of the conventional and generally recognized printing processes such as letterpress, lithography or gravure; and

(c) which annually averages at least 25% news content per issue; or which annually averages at least 1,000 column inches of news content per issue, the term "news content" meaning for the purposes of this Act any printed matter other than advertising; and

(d) which publishes miscellaneous reading matter, legal or other announcements and notices, and news and information concerning current happenings and passing events of a political, social, religious, commercial, financial or legal nature, and advertisements or bulletins; and

(e) which has been continuously published at regular intervals of at least once each week with a minimum of 50 issues per year, for at least one year prior to the first publication of the notice; or which is a successor to a newspaper as herein defined with no interruption of publication of more than 30 days; or which is a merged or consolidated newspaper formed by the merger or consolidation of two or more newspapers, one of which has been continuously published at regular intervals of at least once each week with a minimum of 50 issues per year, for at least one year prior to the first publication of the notice. A newspaper shall be considered as continuously or regularly published although its publication has been suspended, where such suspension was caused by fire or an Act of God or by a labor dispute or by its owner, publisher, managing editor or other essential employee entering the active military service of the United States, if the newspaper was continuously or regularly published for at least one year prior to its suspension and if its publication is resumed at any time not later than 12 months after such fire or Act of God, or if its publication is resumed at any time within 12 months after the termination of the labor dispute, or if its publication is resumed at any time within 12 months after the termination of the war in connection with which such persons entered such military service.

(Source: P.A. 96-59, eff. 7-23-09.)