

# Introduction to the 2025-2026 Edition

This 2025-2026 Edition of the *Illinois Civil Litigation Guide* replaces the 2024-2025 Edition of this treatise.

This publication is intended as a convenient compilation of rules and statutes governing civil practice in Illinois courts. The treatise is presented according to subject matter in an order that generally follows the stages of civil litigation.

The rules governing Illinois civil practice have been updated for this 2025-2026 Edition, reflecting amendments to several Illinois Supreme Court Rules, including:

- Rule 9 – amendments provide important changes to procedures to cure rejected electronic filings
- Rule 11 – regarding methods of electronic service
- Rule 313 – eliminating certain fees for electronic access to documents

In addition, the Illinois Supreme Court adopted a new Rule 300, effective on July 1, 2025, which prescribes the procedures and requirements for attorneys' fee petitions.

This volume also reflects amendments to several sections of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure since the previous edition, including a significant amendment to 735 ILCS 5/2-202 that allows for service of process in Cook County by a licensed private detective.

Practitioners should note that seven sections of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure that are included in this volume are affected by rulings of the Illinois Supreme Court that have held certain statutory amendments unconstitutional and void. In each such instance, the text of the statute as amended by the legislature is set forth, as well as the text of the statute as it existed before the amendment that was struck down as unconstitutional. The affected sections of the Code are: 2-604.1 (pleading of punitive damages); 2-621 (product liability actions); 2-1105 (jury demands); 2-1107.1 (jury instructions in tort actions); 2-1109 (itemized verdicts); 2-1116 (limitations on recoveries in tort actions); and 13-217 (refiling an action after reversal or dismissal).

As usual, the Author's Comments have been updated with reference to newly-amended rules and statutes and with citations to many new decisions of the Illinois Supreme Court and the Ap-

pellate Court relevant to numerous aspects of Illinois civil practice.