



Tax Lien Searches

New Procedure in Illinois

There is a new Illinois law affecting recording and searches of state tax liens. Effective Jan 1, 2018, all state tax liens are no longer recorded at the county level by the county recorder; they are now recorded by a new agency - the **State Tax Lien Registry**. The law, which was passed July 2018, created the State Tax Lien Registry which is managed by the state's Dept. of Revenue. The Dept. of Revenue was the entity sending the lien documents to the counties for recording, so essentially they are now handling this function themselves electronically via the new Registry.

There are several issues that I see.

1) Limitations on Name Searches

The Registry provides online access at from the home page at www.revenue.state.il.us. Look at the right edge under Quick Links and click on **Lien Registry**. A search by name or lien number apparently includes pre-2018 liens, but a **name search is limited to only a 7 day span**.

So moving forward in 2018, a name search without knowing dates will be a very time consuming process. Per our research, so far all of the IL county recorders are continuing to provide search services for pre-2018 liens.

2) Answers to Specific Questions on an Existing Lien.

The Tax Lien Registry offers a voice line for questions on specific liens, **but only the person who is a party of the lien may call and ask questions**. This means CRAs, Pls, or researchers involved with a high level of due diligence will not be able to use this service.

There is a 5 minute YouTube video about these new procedures posted by the Illinois State Tax Lien Registry found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DITvksZs2JU>. Basically the video is saying that the county recorders should no longer be contacted for searches. This fact could present a problem if a researcher is doing a pure name search or has a question on the results of a name search.

Court News

Court Record Search Fees Increased for Charlevoix Circuit Court, Michigan

Effective immediately, the cost for a clerk search for civil or criminal records increased from \$2.00 to \$10.00 per name. The fee for a record search at the county's District

Court remains the same at \$5.00 per name. The fee increase was set by the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners.

In an [article](#) issued by [PetoskeyNews.Com](#), Charlevoix County Clerk Cherie Browe was quoted as saying that doing 8 to 10 record searches a day for the public takes too much of the clerks' time. The article also stated that Ms. Browe reported to the Board that she researched other counties statewide and found that \$10.00 is comparable to fee charged by other county clerks' offices.

No doubt Charlevoix County was at the low end on search fees, but the BRB court fee table database disagrees to a point with Ms. Browe's findings. \$10.00 is not the norm. Per the BRB database, the average fee charged for civil or criminal record searches by the Circuit Courts is \$6.60. Only 38% of the circuit courts charge \$10.00 or more. 62% of the Circuit Courts charge \$9.00 or less, including 14 who do not even charge a fee (primarily because they provide an onsite public terminal to use).

Ms. Browe did a good sales job with the Board of Commissioners. Perhaps they will consider installing a public terminal someday.

Alaska Court: Fee Changes

Effective January 1, 2018, a number of fees charged by Alaska Courts were increased. Most of the fees affected were filing fees, some quite significantly (\$50). Search fees remain the same at \$30.00 per hour. Copy fees remain at \$5.00 per document or portion thereof, but if copies of multiple documents are requested after the first, each additional document increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00. The same increase was applied to certified copies, the original certified copy remains at \$15.00, but each additional copy of the document requested at the same time increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00.

A PDF file showing both the old and new fees is found at:

www.courtrecords.alaska.gov/webdocs/sco/docs/sco1918leg.pdf

Alaska Court: Court Name Change

The town of Barrow Alaska changed its name to Utqiagvik late in 2016, but it was not until recently that the name of the Barrow Trial Court was changed to Utqiagvik Trial Court.

According to news stories, the village corporation, Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corp. filed suit challenging the name change, arguing the town broke its own law since it failed to publish a public notice before the renaming question was put on the ballot before local voters. In March 2017, a Superior Court judge ruled against Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corp. However the Corp. re-filed in April 2017 and a new hearing was scheduled for Jan 22, 2018 (when the sun finally shines there again).

Motor Vehicle News

Update on REAL ID States Compliance

Per the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Web page at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>, all 23 states that are not as yet compliant, as well as Guam and Puerto Rico, have been granted an extension good until October 10, 2018. This means Federal agencies (including TSA) will continue to accept driver's license and identification cards issued by these 23 states in accordance with each agency's policies for access to Federal facilities, nuclear power plants, and federally regulated commercial aircraft until October 10, 2018.

One of the extension States - California - recently has announced it offer federal

compliant REAL ID driver licenses and identification (ID) cards as of January 22, 2018.

Three Territories (American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands) are still under review for an extension.

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