

Illinois Judicial Branch Freedom of Information Act



The Challenge

The entire Illinois court system operates without the basic transparency protections FOIA provides. Unlike every other government body in Illinois, the judiciary has full discretion over what information it releases about its operations.

What don't we know?

Courts are currently NOT required to answer the following:



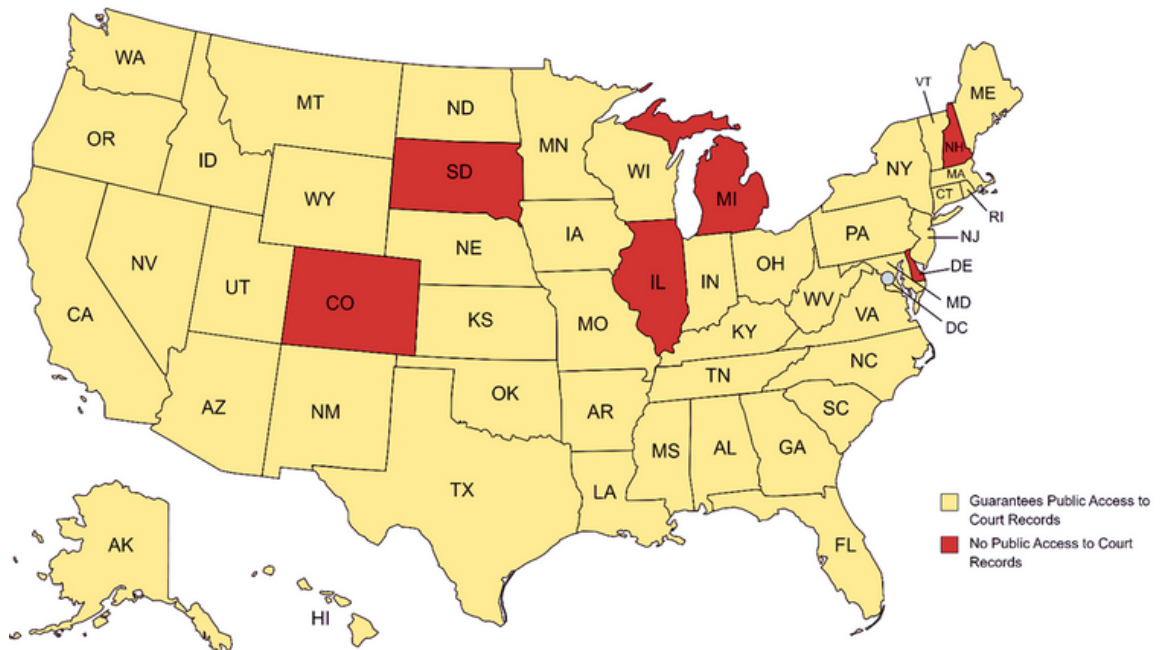
- How courts spend public funds
- How long it takes for a court case to move through the system in each county
- How people who work for the courts are trained, and what policies they follow
- How many people violate their probation each year in each county
- How children detained at juvenile detention centers are disciplined

Conclusion

Voters and Legislators deserve to know the answers to these basic questions so that they can provide proper oversight of our courts.

44 other states provide a right of access to judicial records.*

Illinois must join them.



*Right of access to judicial records as used here refers to the judiciary or certain functions of the judiciary being subject to a state's freedom of information law, or right of access by court rules requiring disclosure, or both. The judiciary is explicitly subject to FOIA in 33 states.