



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dorothy Brown and Other Elected Officials and Agencies Host a Full Service, Community-Based, Adult and Juvenile Expungement Summit at Austin High School

CHICAGO (June 27, 2005) – The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, announces that her Office, in conjunction with Congressman Danny K. Davis, State Representative Connie Howard, other elected officials and an array of governmental, legal, community and religious organizations and agencies, is sponsoring an Adult and Juvenile Expungement Summit at Austin High School, 231 N. Pine St., on Saturday, July 9, 2005; registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

The summit will bring expungement services to the community, providing full service to adults and juveniles. Volunteer attorneys will assist participants with the preparation of applications for the filing of petitions that qualify for expungement and sealing. The State's Attorney, Chicago Police Department and Illinois State Police will hold information sessions on their expungement petition review process, and a member of the Judiciary will discuss its expungement review process.

Individuals who do not qualify for expungement will attend a panel discussion, conducted by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, to learn about Certificates of Good Conduct and Relief from Disabilities, as well as how to prepare letters for clemency and/or pardons from the governor.

Other agencies will provide information on employment, job training, health care, housing and other services for ex-offenders. The Illinois Department of Employment Security will hold an information session on job placement for ex-offenders.

To have a petition filed on site, the petitioner must bring a rap sheet (criminal history) and filing fees, which may include \$60 for the Clerk's Office and, for juvenile cases only, \$60 for the Illinois State Police; \$9 for a certified disposition; and \$4 for certification in juvenile cases only. If the case involved is a Class 4 Felony drug case, the petitioner will have to provide the results of a drug test taken within the past 30 days.

"If an individual qualifies for the expungement of his or her court records, this is a second chance for him or her to be a law-abiding, productive member of society," said Clerk Brown. "We are attempting to remove as many impediments as possible for people who are attempting to better themselves and their quality of life."

The Expungement Summit is being sponsored by: Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County Dorothy Brown, Congressman Danny Davis, State Representative Connie Howard, Congressman Bobby Rush, County Commissioner Earlean Collins, County Commissioner Bobbie Steele, Westside Ministers Coalition, Safer Foundation, Cabrini Green Legal Assistance, The Public Defender's Office, State's Attorney's Office, C.A.P.S., Southside Baptist Ministers Alliance, New Baptist Ministers Fellowship, Proviso Ministerial Alliance, The Attorney General's Office, Illinois Prisoner Review Board, the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Attorneys Advisory and Religious Advisory Committees and the Illinois Department of Employment Security.