



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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**CLERK DOROTHY BROWN TO LAUNCH  
“E-PLEA” ONLINE SERVICE TRAFFIC TICKET PAYMENT PROGRAM**  
*Innovative Program Provides Opportunity to Handle Traffic Violations  
Rapidly and Securely*

CHICAGO (May 23, 2008) – The Office of Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, will become the first Illinois jurisdiction to implement the “E-PLEA” system, a program through which individuals may plead and pay for traffic tickets online or schedule a court date or sign up for Traffic Safety School. Planned implementation is this summer.

“This new service is a special convenience for the citizens of Cook County,” said Clerk Brown. “It enables individuals to rapidly and conveniently respond to their traffic violations and, if they so choose, pay associated fines and other charges, safely and securely on their home computers.

“E-PLEA offers solutions for the usual problems associated with handling one’s traffic citations. It’s a time saver for busy people, and the ability to use a credit card may help them manage payment more effectively,” Clerk Brown pointed out.

The E-PLEA project will allow people with Cook County traffic violations to conduct the following activities at the Clerk’s Office website ([www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)):

- Enter a plea of guilty and pay the fine; or
- Enter a plea of guilty, register for Traffic Safety School, pay the fine and registration fee; or
- Enter a plea of not guilty, request and receive a court hearing date.

Clerk Brown pioneered the “E-PLEA” project for the Circuit Court of Cook County upon receiving permission from the Illinois Supreme Court to take traffic ticket payments over the Internet. The project will enhance the Clerk’s Office’s operations by reducing traffic courthouse congestion and decreasing administrative and operational traffic citation processing and storage expenses.

The Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County is one of the first Cook County agencies to accept payments of fines and costs by credit card. Clerk Brown’s innovative “E-PLEA” system follows the groundbreaking Cash Bail by Credit Card program she implemented in the Clerk’s Office in 2005. By the end of 2007, the Cash Bail by Credit Card program had collected more than \$17 million.