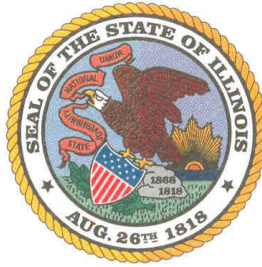


Eugene G. Doherty
Chief Judge



WINNEBAGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
400 West State Street - Room 215
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101
TEL: (815) 319-4800 FAX: (815) 319-4808

September 16, 2021

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kimberly Ackmann
Deputy Court Administrator
815-319-4831
kackmann@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov

MEDIA RELEASE

17th Judicial Circuit Court Launches Eviction Mediation Program

ROCKFORD, IL – Chief Judge Eugene G. Doherty announces that the 17th Judicial Circuit Court has launched an eviction mediation program in Winnebago County. The program is free and available to housing providers and tenants with pending residential eviction court cases. In addition to providing mediation, the program will refer parties to appropriate services, including rental assistance programs. Mediation sessions will occur virtually through the assistance of technology.

Chief Judge Doherty stated, “The Illinois Supreme Court has encouraged each judicial circuit to establish early resolution programs to allow for alternative dispute resolution of eviction cases. The court is pleased to be in a position to offer a platform that allows Winnebago County residents involved in eviction court an opportunity to reach an agreement that meets their respective needs.”

The Circuit partnered with the nonprofit organization Resolution Systems Institute (RSI), who will coordinate the program and deliver virtual mediation programming. RSI’s mission is to strengthen access to justice by enhancing court alternative dispute resolution systems. RSI was awarded a grant to support this program offering from the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, with funding provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

For more information regarding participation in the eviction program, you may contact Program Coordinator Olga Ivori at ivori@aboutrsi.org, or at (312) 772-4493.

If you are a skilled mediator and wish to learn about serving the program, please contact RSI’s Eric Slepak at eslepak@aboutrsi.org.

###