

ALWD Illinois Citation Formats

Below are examples of the Association of Legal Writing Directors (*ALWD*) style citations most commonly used by students at College of DuPage. For additional examples and rules, please consult the *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation*. ALWD & Coleen M. Barger, *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* (6th ed., 2017).

The below citation examples have been compiled by Lorri Scott, J.D., Maria Mack, J.D., and Linda Jenkins, J.D., from the [COD Paralegal Studies Program](#). They were updated by Linda Jenkins, J.D. and Anne Knight, J.D., in December 2012. They were updated by Todd Holes and Linda Jenkins, J.D., in December 2017.

ALWD Illinois Citations

General Rules

- Follow General Abbreviations (*ALWD* Appendix 3) when listing states, cities, districts, dates, etc.
- Case names are italicized, which is preferred, (*Smith v. Waukegan Park Dist.*) or underlined (Smith v. Waukegan Park Dist.). *ALWD* R. 1.1, 1.3(a), 12.2(a)(1).
- Do not italicize or underline the comma after the case name. *ALWD* R. 1.3(b).
- Abbreviate versus to "v." in case names. *ALWD* R. 12.2(c).
- When an abbreviation uses consecutive single letters (N.E.2d, F.3d), omit spaces between the letters. *ALWD* R. 2.2(b).
- Treat ordinal contractions, such as 2d or 5th, as a single letter. *ALWD* R. 2.2(c).
- Once you have cited a source in full, use a "short citation" in later references to it. *ALWD* R. 11.2.
- Where it is appropriate, "*Id.*" is the preferred short citation. *ALWD* R. 11.3(a).
- Use short citations when the reader will neither be confused about the source being referenced nor have trouble quickly locating the source's full citation. *ALWD* R. 11.2.
- By common practice, do not use "*Id.*" more than five times consecutively.
- The first word in a citation sentence starts with a capitalized letter, and the sentence ends in a period. *ALWD* R. 34.1(a).

Illinois Supreme Court Pre-July 1, 2011

[*Case Name*], [official reporter volume number] [official reporter abbreviation] [initial page number], [pin page number], [unofficial regional reporter volume number] [unofficial regional reporter abbreviation] [initial page number], [pin page number] (Date).

Smith v. Waukegan Park Dist., 231 Ill. 2d 142, 143, 718 N.E.2d 232, 235 (2008).

- List the official Illinois reporter (Ill.) first, followed by the unofficial reporter (N.E.2d). *ALWD* R. 12.4(c).

Red triangles▲ are used throughout this document to illustrate required spacing within citations.

Tip: You can tell this is an Illinois Supreme Court case in two ways. First, the "Ill." indicates the reporter is the Illinois Reports, which only reports Illinois Supreme Court cases. Second, when nothing but a year is in the final parentheses, it indicates that the case was decided by the highest court in a particular jurisdiction. Please note that this also applies to United States Supreme Court cases, where "U.S." would indicate the highest court, as would a date with nothing else in the final parentheses.

Short Citations—Illinois Supreme Court

Examples of short citations based on the full citation shown above:

1. *Id.*,▲896▲N.E.2d▲at▲235. (*Id.* by itself, with no “at” designating the pin page, is only used when the pin page of the official reporter is the same page as the previous cite. Note: the unofficial reporter, if it is a parallel citation, may never be shortened to *Id.*) ALWD R. 12.16(d).
2. *Id.*▲at▲144,▲896▲N.E.2d▲at▲235.
3. *Smith*,▲231▲Ill.▲2d▲at▲144,▲896▲N.E.2d▲at▲235. (This format used when the textual sentence has no reference to the case name and *Id.* would be inappropriate.) ALWD R. 12.16(b).
4. 231▲Ill.▲2d▲at▲144,▲896▲N.E.2d▲at▲235. (This format used when the textual sentence uses all or part of a case name.) ALWD R. 12.16(c).

Illinois Appellate Court Pre-July 1, 2011

In Illinois

[*Case Name*],▲[official reporter volume number],▲[official reporter abbreviation],▲[initial page number],▲[pin page number],▲[unofficial regional reporter volume number],▲[unofficial regional reporter abbreviation],▲[initial page number],▲[pin page number],▲([court abbreviation],▲[Date]).

People v. Gonzalez,▲385▲Ill.▲App.▲3d▲15,▲21,▲895▲N.E.2d▲982,▲988,▲(1st▲Dist.▲2008).

- It is customary to use "*People*" in IL when referring to the state of Illinois. ALWD R. 12.2(i).
- "Ill. App. 3d" stands for Illinois Appellate Court Reports Third Series and is the official reporter.
- "1st Dist. 2008" means the case was decided in 2008 in the First Judicial District of IL.

Caveat: The above citation is what you will commonly see in practice in Illinois. It does not comply exactly with the ALWD format, which cites this case (with pincites) as: *People v. Gonzalez*, 385 Ill. App. 3d 15, 21, 895 N.E.2d 982, 988 (Ill. App. 1st Dist. 2008). Note in the strict ALWD format, the "Ill. App." is repeated in the parentheses with the district and date.

ALWD says the writer should follow local rules, but in the absence of local rules the writer should only provide one reporter, which should generally be the regional reporter (N.E.2d). The reason ALWD includes "Ill. App." in the parenthetical is because when you eliminate the official reporter, the citation no longer identifies the court as the Illinois Appellate Court.

Short Citations—Illinois Appellate Court

Examples of short citations based on the full citation shown above.

1. *Id.*, 895 N.E.2d at 988. (*Id.* by itself, with no “at” designating the pin page, is only used when the pin page of the official reporter is the same page as the previous cite. Note: the unofficial reporter, if it is a parallel citation, may never be shortened to *Id.*) ALWD R. 12.16(d).
2. *Id.* at 21, 895 N.E.2d at 988.
3. *Gonzalez*, 385 Ill. App. 3d at 21, 895 N.E.2d at 988. (This format is used when the textual sentence has no reference to the case name and *Id.* would be inappropriate.) ALWD R. 12.16(b).
4. 385 Ill. App. 3d at 21, 895 N.E.2d at 988-89. (This format used when the textual sentence uses all or part of a case name.) ALWD R. 12.16(c).

Outside of Illinois

[*Case Name*], [unofficial regional reporter volume number] [unofficial regional reporter abbreviation] [initial page number], [pin page number] ([court abbreviation] [date]).

People v. Gonzalez, 895 N.E.2d 982, 986 (Ill. App. 1st Dist. 2008).

- Use the strict ALWD citation format above when **outside** of Illinois, unless the rules of that jurisdiction specify otherwise.
- Note the addition of “Ill. App.” in the parentheses. This is required because, in removing the official reporter, the reader can no longer readily identify the state and court from the citation without this information.

Illinois District Court

Opinions are not published at the trial level due to the massive volume of cases heard every year.

Illinois Public Domain Format

On July 1, 2011, Illinois switched to a public domain format. All cases decided July 1, 2011, and after must be cited in the new format according to Illinois Supreme Court Rules 6 and 23.

[*Case Name*], [year of decision] [State’s two-letter postal abbreviation] [unique identifier number derived from docket number], [Pinpoint paragraph], [unofficial regional reporter volume number] [unofficial regional reporter abbreviation] [initial page number], [pin page number].

Illinois Supreme Court Public Domain Format

People v. Smith, 2017 IL 213884, ¶ 17, 543 N.E.2d 422, 426.

Illinois Appellate Court Public Domain Format

People v. Jones, 2017 IL App (3d) 101234, ¶ 48, 799 N.E.2d 604, 609.

Note: The (3d) in the above public domain citation refers to the third appellate district.

Illinois Public Domain Jump (Pin) Cites

To pinpoint paragraphs:

People v. Jones, 2017 IL App (3d) 101234, ¶ 49.

People v. Jones, 2017 IL App (3d) 101234, ¶¶ 49-51.

People v. Jones, 2017 IL App (3d) 101234, ¶¶ 53, 64.

Short Citations—Public Domain

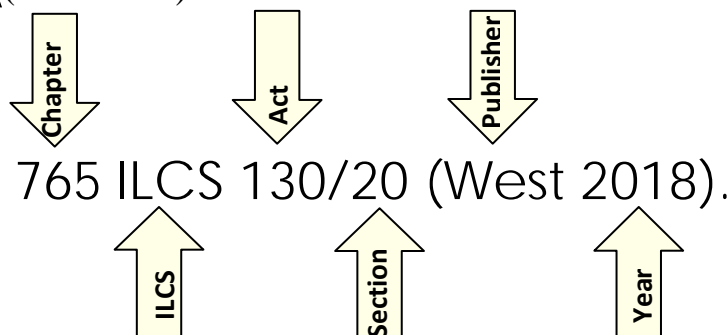
Examples of short citations based on the full citation shown above.

1. *Id.*, 799 N.E.2d 604, 606. (*Id.* by itself, with no pilcrow “¶” designating the pin paragraph, is only used when the pin paragraph of the official reporter is the same page as the previous cite. Note: the unofficial reporter, if it is a parallel citation, may never be shortened to *Id.*) ALWD R. 12.16(d).
2. *Id.* ¶ 46, 799 N.E.2d at 607.
3. *Jones*, 2017 IL App (3d) 101234, ¶ 52, 799 N.E.2d at 606. (This format is used when the textual sentence has no reference to the case name and *Id.* would be inappropriate.) ALWD R. 12.16(b).

Note: Although the preposition “at” is used when a pinpoint page is cited, it is not used before other types of pinpoint references, such as “¶.” ALWD R. 11.3(d), 12.11.

Illinois Statutes

[Chapter] [code] [act]/[section number] ([publisher] [year of publication]).
765 ILCS 130/20 (West 2018).



- Correct format for the Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS), the official code in IL.
- The Illinois Supreme Court style manual requires the publisher, “West,” be identified in the parenthetical. [Style Manual for the Supreme and Appellate Courts of Illinois \(Ill. 2010 Rev. 2012\)](#).

Tip: *The numbering systems in both the Illinois Compiled Statutes and West's Smith-Hurd Illinois Compiled Statutes Annotated conform. The citation to the annotated code is the same as the citation to the official code. Use ILCS for both.*

Caveat: *The above citation is what you will commonly see in practice in Illinois. It does not comply exactly with the ALWD format, which cites this statute as: 765 Ill. Comp. Stat. 130/20 (2017). Note in the strict ALWD format, the "Ill. Comp. Stat." replaces "ILCS."*

Note: *All citations in this document are fictitious.*

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Terms in this document:

- [Reporter](#)
- [N.E.2d](#)
- [Pilcrow](#)
- [Public Domain Format](#)
- [Id.](#)