



*Keith Brin*  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

## OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

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Representative Wilson,

It has come to my attention that the State of Alaska is considering legislation similar to the law that we adopted in Illinois ([Public Act 096-1210](#)) relating to electronic citations (“e-citation”). I thought that I might share some insights about this legislation and a little more about our experience in implementing it in hopes that these observations might prove helpful.

In Illinois, e-citations are incredibly popular with both law enforcement and local circuit courts. E-citations are printed, rather than hand written, and can be sent electronically by the issuing officer to the court, where they are automatically incorporated into the court’s record management system. E-citation enables law enforcement officers to more quickly issue citations, spend less time along the roadside in “harm’s way” and concentrate more fully on the stop. This increased officer safety is incredibly important and inevitably saves lives.

In addition to increasing officer safety, e-citation aids courts by reducing data entry and other processing costs. With e-citation, already overstretched courts enjoy greater efficiency. Furthermore, the public can be assured that issued citations are legible, free of handwriting errors and can be reproduced as originally issued if required.

In my own jurisdiction in Lake County, for example, e-citation solves multiple issues that plague most paper-based systems: issues of timing for my clerks to receive tickets, entering ticket information to create a court case, and any human errors that accompany the process; issues involving interpreting difficult-to-read carbon copies of documents often with illegible handwriting; and timing problems associated with various court actions related to those matters (e.g., DUI tickets are often filed days after the actual event, but defense attorneys procedurally only have a certain amount of time from the time of the event to file certain matters in defense of the DUI).

With all of the benefits of e-citation, the only hurdle to adoption is the creation of funding sources to procure the necessary hardware and electronic records management system. To address this issue, the legislation that we adopted in Illinois added a \$5 fee to citations and misdemeanors to help finance e-citation and the records management system. The legislation did not have any impact on the state budget and received strong support from local governments, police and sheriff’s departments, and circuit court judges and administrators.

I hope that our experience in Illinois proves valuable to your review. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am a big believer in working together and sharing best practices, so I am happy to assist you.

Most respectfully,

Honorable Keith Brin  
Clerk of the Circuit Court