



RESEARCHING COMMISSION LAW

Ordinances and Regulations. Copies of the Commission on Human Relations *Enabling Ordinance*, the *Chicago Human Rights Ordinance*, the *Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance*, and the Commission's *Regulations* implementing these ordinances are available from the Commission at no charge and will be mailed on request. This and other informational material, including frequently-used forms, also appear on the Commission's web site: www.cityofchicago.org/humanrelations.

Precedents and the *Subject Matter Index*. A *Subject Matter Index* describes all decisions issued by the Commission which may be cited as precedent in subsequent cases. The *Index* is organized by topic and describes precedential decisions made by the Commission on Human Relations from May 1990. Volume 1 covers 1990 through 1999; Volume 2 begins with January 2000. Precedential decisions include:

- Rulings of the Board of Commissioners issued after administrative hearings on complaints filed.
- Decisions on motions to dismiss and jurisdictional requirements.
- Other decisions interpreting the ordinances and regulations.

If no Commission precedent is available on a point of law, the Commission looks to decisions of other jurisdictions for guidance, especially Illinois state court decisions.

Availability of *Subject Matter Index* and Decisions. To purchase the *Index* and receive updates, please contact the Commission's Docket Clerk (312-744-2863) for an order form. The cost is \$70 for a full set and \$35 for an updated Volume 2. The *Index* is updated periodically. Copies of the decisions listed in the *Index* may be purchased at 20 cents per page, as explained below. Most Commission decisions through 2002 can be found on the Westlaw electronic research service.

- **Cook County Law Library.** The *Index* and the decisions cited in it are available at this public law library. At this time, this is the best way to research Commission case law free of charge and without an advance appointment. It is not necessary to be an attorney to use the library on weekdays. The address is Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., 29th Floor, Chicago, IL 60602. For current hours, call (312) 603-5423 or see the Cook County web site: www.co.cook.il.us.
- **Inspection and Purchase at the Commission's Office.** The public may inspect the *Subject Matter Index* and read decisions at the Commission's office. *The Commission cannot guarantee availability of decisions without advance notice of at least two working days.* To arrange to inspect or purchase any decision, contact the Commission's Docket Clerk, (312) 744-2863, stating the case name, case number, and date of each decision. Requests for more than three decisions must be made in writing (by mail or fax); requests for three or fewer may be made orally. Decisions will be ready for inspection within two working days. Payment for purchases must be made before copies are released, either by cash (exact change) or by check or money order payable to City of Chicago. The Commission will fax decisions only if they total fewer than 20 pages. The Commission cannot guarantee turnaround time on copy requests of less than 24 hours. Mailing requests can be honored but advance payment for mailing costs is required, which can cause delay.

Board Rulings Digest. The Commission also publishes a cumulative *Board Rulings Digest* which lists all rulings of the Board of Commissioners after an administrative hearing. It states the general nature of each case, whether the Board determined that an ordinance violation occurred, and if so what remedies it ordered. A single copy is available at no charge, and it is available on the Commission's website.