



Illegal Dumping Reward Program* **Chicago Municipal Code Section 7-28-445**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is illegal dumping?

“Illegal dumping” is the dumping of waste (such as used tires, chemical drums, or demolition debris) on a lot or parcel of real estate in violation of sections 7-28-440 or 11-4-1500 of the Chicago Municipal Code.** You can find the full text of these ordinances by visiting <http://www.amlegal.com/library/il/chicago.shtml>.

2. How should I report illegal dumping if I want to be eligible for a reward?

If the dumping is still in progress, you should call 9-1-1 so that a police officer can be dispatched as quickly as possible.

If the dumping has already occurred, the best way to report it is to call the City’s non-emergency telephone number: **3-1-1**.

You can also report by other verifiable means of notification, such as a letter or email. The Department of Public Health’s mailing and email address for this purpose are:

Department of Public Health
Environmental Permitting & Inspections
333 S. State Street, Rm. 200
Chicago, IL 60604
solid.waste@cityofchicago.org

To be eligible for a reward, you must identify yourself (full first and last name) and provide your contact information when you report illegal dumping.

3. What will happen after I make a report of illegal dumping?

The City will review your information, and an inspector from the Department of Public Health will contact you at the number you provided (usually within a day or two). The inspector may make an appointment with you to gather information and collect your Illegal Dumping Witness Report (see Question 4 below). The inspector will then conduct an investigation based on the information you provide.

4. What are the reward eligibility requirements?

There are three requirements to be eligible for the reward:

- You must provide your full first and last **name and contact information** to the City when you make the report;
- You must complete and sign the **Illegal Dumping Witness Report**; and
- Your Witness Report must result in a **conviction or finding of liability** for illegal dumping of the person(s) identified in the report as having committed the violation on the date and at the time set forth in the report.

(City employees are not eligible for the reward.)

5. May I remain anonymous?

No, you may not remain anonymous if you wish to be eligible for the reward. (However, you may still file an anonymous complaint if you simply wish to notify the City about illegal dumping without participating in the reward program.)

6. Where can I obtain a blank Illegal Dumping Witness Report form?

The Illegal Dumping Witness Report form is available on the City's website at: www.cityofchicago.org/dumping. In addition, the inspector who responds to your report can provide you with a blank form.

7. What do I do with the Witness Report after I fill it out?

Provide your completed and signed Witness Report to the City Health Inspector who responds to your initial report. If you made your report through 9-1-1, you may send your Witness Report to the Department of Public Health at the address listed in Question 2 above.

8. How can I find out if my report resulted in a conviction or finding of liability?

You will be notified through the contact information you provide in your Witness Report. In addition, you may check on the status of your complaint by calling CDPH at (312) 745-3150.

9. Do I have to appear at the Department of Administrative Hearings?

It is possible that the Administrative Hearing Officer will require your appearance to testify to the facts set forth in your Witness Report. In such case, the City will contact you at the phone number you provide in your Witness Report.

10. When will I receive my reward?

If the Department of Public Health determines that a Witness Report resulted in a conviction or finding of liability for illegal dumping, the Commissioner will notify the Comptroller, and the Comptroller will issue the reward. In most cases, it will be at least six to eight weeks before a violation results in a finding of liability, though it could be longer depending on the administrative hearing process.

11. How much is the reward?

The reward is \$100. If more than one Witness Report results in a conviction or finding of liability, the \$100 reward will be divided equally among the persons who signed the applicable Witness Reports.

Notes:

* This factsheet is for general information only. It is not intended to replace, interpret, or modify any federal, state, local, or other law of any kind, nor does it provide or constitute legal advice.

**Besides illegal dumping, there are other activities that may be in violation of the Municipal Code, such as the accumulation of junk, improper lot maintenance, and nuisance. Such violations may be reported to the City and will be assigned to an appropriate City inspector. However, please note that reports of such violations are not eligible for a reward under the Illegal Dumping Reward Program.

To view the full text of the Chicago Municipal Code, please visit <http://www.amlegal.com/library/il/chicago.shtml>.