

Dual Addressing FAQ

Q: Why do some properties in unincorporated Lake County have dual addresses?

Under Illinois statute, the assignment of addresses and street names in unincorporated areas is a county function. A Lake County ordinance passed in 1977 allowed some properties in unincorporated Lake County to be assigned dual addresses.

Q: When did the Lake County Board decide to eliminate dual addresses?

The County Board passed Lake County's revised address ordinance on July 9, 2019. The Chief County Assessment Office (CCAO) is responsible for its implementation.

Q: What was the rationale for eliminating dual addresses?

- Dual addresses pose serious obstacles for police, fire and ambulance services responding to an emergency, lengthening the response time in emergency situations where seconds can mean the difference between life and death.
- Lake County was approached by many public safety agencies requesting that it resolve dual addressing issue in order to minimize the time required to locate an address when responding to an emergency call.
- Response time for severe health problems such as heart attacks and strokes can make the difference between life and death, and the time taken to respond to all emergency calls has already been lengthened in many parts of Lake County due to increasing traffic congestion.
- Dual addresses can also pose issues for mail delivery, navigation systems and the retrieval of county records and can complicate business transactions such as refinancing a mortgage and applying for a passport or driver's license.
- The U.S. Postal Service also requested that the County implement consistent addresses in unincorporated areas.
- On July 1, 2020, the state of Illinois is implementing its Next Generation 9-1-1 initiative which all emergency responders in Illinois will be required to use. The new system relies on one single address for each property and is an important step to minimizing response times for 9-1-1 calls.

Q: How many properties in unincorporated Lake County are impacted?

There are 3,160 properties in unincorporated Lake County that were assigned dual addresses. After an analysis by the CCAO, it was determined that that 2,712 (86%) of them can keep the primary address that they are currently using to receive mail, and that is associated with their tax bill. There are 448 properties that will be assigned a new address.

Q: What steps has Lake County taken to notify property owners of the pending change?

The Chief County Assessor's Office sent letters last fall to the owners of all 3,160 impacted properties notifying them that the county was in the process of eliminating dual addresses, and that their property may be affected. No action was required at that time.

Q: What are the next steps?

The CCAO is in the process of all impacted property owners.

Q: I've been told that my address is being changed. Will I need to complete a change of address card with the U.S. Post Office?

No. We are working directly with the U.S. Post Office to change the address on your behalf. Do NOT fill out a change of address card, as this will cause confusion.

Q: What other action will Lake County take on my behalf?

Lake County will notify the Lake County Clerk, Treasurer and Public Works offices, as well as public safety agencies, including 911 centers.

Q: What action do I need to take?

You will need to notify the following entities:

- The Illinois Secretary of State's Office to update your driver's license or state ID
- Your bank and credit card companies
- Your electric, gas, cable and Internet providers
- Your insurance carrier
- Magazine and subscription services
- Tax agencies such as the IRS
- Friends and family
- Any other entities from which you receive mail

You will need to make sure your official address is visible from the street:

- Your official address number must be posted at the access to your property in a prominent location, such as on a mailbox or signpost in front of your property
- Making sure your address can be seen driving from both directions will help first responders find your home quickly

Q: After the address change goes into effect, what happens if mail is addressed to my old address?

The post office will continue to deliver mail addressed to your old address for up to one year following the change.

Q: Will I need to update legal documents, like my will and trust documents, with my new address?

You should consult with your attorney for instructions on how to handle your legal documents.

Q: I have been living in my home for decades, and I have never experienced a problem with delayed emergency services. The police officers and firefighters know me, and know where I live.

Lake County public safety agencies have informed Lake County that dual addressing was leading to increased response times. In emergency situations, especially where someone has experienced a heart attack or stroke, a delay of even 30 seconds can mean the difference between life and death. Additionally, on July 1, 2020, the state of Illinois is adopting its Next Generation 9-1-1 initiative which all emergency responders in Illinois will be required to use. The new system relies on one single address for each property. Once that is implemented, it will be even harder to respond to calls in a timely manner from properties that have dual addresses.

Q: Will my new address show up in Google Maps?

Google does not have a system that allows them to be notified when an address is changed. Their software will eventually detect your new address, but there will likely be a lag time from when your address is officially changed to when it is searchable on Google Maps.

Q: Who do I contact with further questions?

If you have additional questions, contact the Chief County Assessment Office at **847-377-2050**, or email them at **assessor@lakecountyil.gov**.