FENCE ADVISORS

Chicago, IL

Fence permit planning sheet

REVIEWED OCTOBER 24, 2026 / CITY JURISDICTION ONLY

The starting point

Confirm Chicago jurisdiction, zoning, both-side height, landmarks and any public-way or special function. Fences not more than 5 feet above ground on both sides and conforming to zoning are generally building-permit exempt; landmark and other approvals can still apply. For permit-required eligible work use the Express Permit Program fence worktype, provide owner, scope and licensed-contractor details and required documents, pay applicable fees and obtain issuance before work. Follow the permit's inspection instructions.

Before work starts

- [ ] Confirm incorporated Chicago jurisdiction, actual lot lines, zoning yards and landmark or proposed-landmark status.
- [ ] Identify new, full-replacement or limited-repair scope and any pool, retaining, powered-gate or public-way work.
- [ ] Measure fence height on both sides and document front-yard opacity rather than assuming a permit exemption approves the location.
- [ ] Collect owner, property, scope and licensed-contractor information and any required survey, plans or design-professional documents.
- [ ] Use the official Express fence entry for eligible permit-required work; confirm additional reviews, e-acceptance and actual fees.
- [ ] Obtain issued approvals before work, follow utility-location and inspection instructions and retain the permit and completion records.

Not a permit, property survey, engineering plan or legal determination.

Confirm current rules, site conditions and required approvals with the authority.

Official sources, conditions and the full guide:

fenceadvisors.com/blog/chicago-il-fence-permits-code

Original worksheet: CC BY 4.0 / Keep jurisdiction, review date and source link attached.