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Macoupin County courts to launch online self-help center

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CARLINVILLE — Macoupin County and Carlinville Public Library officials are announcing the launch of a free online self-help center for low-income residents to access legal information.

The Macoupin County Legal Self-Help Center will be available online at <http://macoupin.illinoislegalaid.org>. People without a computer or Internet access can use public-access computers at the Carlinville Public Library.

The center will provide legal information on civil matters for low-income residents who must represent themselves in court. The center also contains other non-court related legal information on such matters as Social Security, Medicare, unemployment compensation and other topics.

The Illinois Equal Justice Foundation provided start-up funding through an appropriation from the Illinois General Assembly.

This new center was developed by Circuit Judge Kenneth Deihl, Circuit Clerk Mike Mathis and representatives from the Carlinville Public Library, Macoupin County Probation Service, Safe Families and Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation. The Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice and Illinois Legal Aid Online provided planning and technical support.

Officials are planning a press conference for next week to announce more details.