Lemon Law Packet

Illinois · DIY draft documents

Prepared for: SAMPLE — Example Owner (fictional)

Vehicle: 2024 Example Motors Pathway

VIN: 1EXAMPLE000000000

State: Illinois

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Important notices

Draft documents generated from your answers. Read every sentence and delete anything that isn't accurate for your situation before you sign, send, or file. DIY document automation — not legal advice. No attorney reviews anything.

1. Illinois Lemon Law Claim Narrative — Draft

*Illinois lemon law claims start with the manufacturer's **informal dispute settlement procedure** (check your warranty booklet for how to file), then move to **circuit court** if unresolved. There is **no state arbitration form**, and the Act sets no filing fee of its own (circuit-court clerk fees apply and vary by county). Use this narrative for the manufacturer program's filing form — and to get organized before you talk to a lemon law attorney about any court filing.*

Claimant

SAMPLE — Example Owner (fictional)
100 Example Street, Sampletown
555-010-1234 · example@example.com

Vehicle

2024 Example Motors Pathway — VIN 1EXAMPLE000000000
Purchased/leased new in Illinois from: Example Motors on January 5, 2025
Original delivery date: January 10, 2025 · Mileage at delivery: 12 · Current mileage: 15,000
Express warranty: January 10, 2028
Vehicle is used primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

Nonconformity

The engine stalls at idle and sometimes will not restart — to my knowledge, this nonconformity was reported and repaired within the statutory warranty period (1 year / 12,000 miles from delivery), and I allege that it substantially impairs the use, market value, or safety of the vehicle.

§3(h) prior direct written notification

The statutory presumption requires **prior direct written notification** to the manufacturer and an opportunity to correct. I gave that notice on **May 1, 2025** (demand letter, document 4 — keep the mailing proof).

Repair history (4 attempts)

#	Dates (days out)	Dealer	Reported	Result
1	Feb 3, 2025 to Feb 5, 2025 (2 business days)	Example Motors Service	Engine stalls at idle	Cleaned throttle body — defect persists
2	Mar 10, 2025 to Mar 12, 2025 (2 business days)	Example Motors Service	Engine stalls at idle	Replaced sensor — defect persists
3	Apr 14, 2025 to Apr 21, 2025 (5 business days)	Example Motors Service	Engine stalls at idle	Replaced control module — defect persists
4	Jun 2, 2025 to Jun 6, 2025 (4 business days)	Example Motors Service	Engine stalls at idle	Could not duplicate — defect persists

Relief requested

Under 815 ILCS 380/1 et seq., I request **repurchase of the vehicle: the full purchase price or lease cost, including collateral charges (not including taxes paid on the purchase), less a reasonable allowance for my use** under §3(a).

Filing deadline

Suit must be commenced within **18 months** of original delivery — estimated from the dates I entered: **July 10, 2026**. The period is extended by the days this matter is pending in the informal procedure.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SAMPLE — Example Owner (fictional)

2. Repair-History Organizer

*Attach every repair order — even visits where they found "no problem." Total out of service: **13** business days (Mon–Fri; holidays not subtracted — check your records) across 4 visits. Your state may count days differently — use your repair orders as the record. Keyed to Illinois' tests: 4+ same-defect attempts OR 30+ business days out of service, within 1 year / 12,000 miles.*

#	In	Out	Business days	Dealer	Reported	Result	RO #
1	Feb 3, 2025	Feb 5, 2025	2	Example Motors Service	Engine stalls at idle	Cleaned throttle body — defect persists	RO-1001
2	Mar 10, 2025	Mar 12, 2025	2	Example Motors Service	Engine stalls at idle	Replaced sensor — defect persists	RO-1002
3	Apr 14, 2025	Apr 21, 2025	5	Example Motors Service	Engine stalls at idle	Replaced control module — defect persists	RO-1003
4	Jun 2, 2025	Jun 6, 2025	4	Example Motors Service	Engine stalls at idle	Could not duplicate — defect persists	RO-1004

Key dates timeline

Your dates in order. Months are counted from delivery; odometer readings are the ones you entered.

Date	Event	Months after delivery	Odometer
January 10, 2025	Vehicle delivered to you	0	12
February 3, 2025	Repair visit 1 — in (Example Motors Service)	0	3,000
February 5, 2025	Repair visit 1 — out (2 days in the shop)	0	
March 10, 2025	Repair visit 2 — in (Example Motors Service)	2	
March 12, 2025	Repair visit 2 — out (2 days in the shop)	2	
April 14, 2025	Repair visit 3 — in (Example Motors Service)	3	
April 21, 2025	Repair visit 3 — out (7 days in the shop)	3	
May 1, 2025	Written notice to the manufacturer	3	
June 2, 2025	Repair visit 4 — in (Example Motors Service)	4	
June 6, 2025	Repair visit 4 — out (4 days in the shop)	4	
July 10, 2026	Estimated suit deadline (18 months from delivery) (appears to have passed) — an estimate; confirm it yourself	18	

Your record beside Illinois's tests

The numbers you entered, next to the presumption tests our Illinois guide describes. This is a side-by-side comparison, not a finding that any test is met — dates, mileage, notice steps, and what your repair orders actually say all matter.

Test	What the law looks for	Your entered record
Repairs of the same problem	4+ repairs of the same problem, plus direct written notice to the manufacturer	4 visits entered for this defect
Days out of service	30+ business days out of service	13 business days from the visits you entered
Time and mileage window	Within 1 year or 12,000 miles of delivery	First visit: February 3, 2025 at 3,000 miles (2,988 since delivery); latest visit: June 2, 2025

3. Evidence Checklist — Illinois

Gather these before filing — organized paperwork is the backbone of any claim.

- Buyer's order / lease agreement (proof of new Illinois purchase or lease; consumer use)
- All repair orders and invoices — every visit, even "could not duplicate" visits
- Your §3(h) prior direct written notice to the manufacturer + the mailing proof (certified mail receipt / tracking) and the manufacturer's opportunity to correct
- Proof the repairs happened within 1 year / 12,000 miles of delivery (dated, mileage-stamped repair orders)
- Express warranty booklet — highlight the manufacturer's informal dispute settlement procedure and filing instructions
- Photos and videos of the defect (with dates)
- Log of all phone calls and correspondence with dealer and manufacturer (dates, names)
- Loaner / rental paperwork for days the vehicle was in the shop
- Current registration, insurance, and loan/lease statements
- Any manufacturer responses, denials, or settlement offers in writing

4. §3(h) Prior Direct Written Notification — Illinois

*This is the **statutory §3(h) notice**: the presumption that a "reasonable number of attempts" was made requires **prior direct written notification to the manufacturer** and an opportunity to correct. Send it by **certified mail, return receipt requested** and keep the proof — trackable mailing is practical guidance, not a statutory requirement. Send it to the **manufacturer's address in your warranty booklet** (sending it only to the dealer is a risk).*

SAMPLE — Example Owner (fictional)
100 Example Street, Sampletown
555-010-1234

October 19, 2026

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

[Manufacturer Name — as listed in your warranty booklet]
[Manufacturer Address from warranty booklet]

Re: Prior direct written notification of nonconformity — 2024 Example Motors Pathway, VIN 1EXAMPLE000000000

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the owner of the above vehicle, purchased in Illinois from Example Motors on January 5, 2025. The vehicle has an alleged nonconformity — a defect that I believe is covered by your express warranty and substantially impairs its use, market value, or safety: The engine stalls at idle and sometimes will not restart.

The vehicle has been presented for repair 4 times and the nonconformity persists. This letter is my **prior direct written notification** under 815 ILCS 380/3(h). I ask you to take this opportunity to correct the nonconformity. I am prepared to accept repurchase of the vehicle as provided in §3(a) if the nonconformity cannot be corrected within a reasonable number of attempts.

Repair visits for this defect to date:

#	Dates	Dealer	RO #	Odometer
1	Feb 3, 2025 to Feb 5, 2025	Example Motors Service	RO-1001	3,000
2	Mar 10, 2025 to Mar 12, 2025	Example Motors Service	RO-1002	
3	Apr 14, 2025 to Apr 21, 2025	Example Motors Service	RO-1003	
4	Jun 2, 2025 to Jun 6, 2025	Example Motors Service	RO-1004	

Please send your response in writing to the address above.

Sincerely,

_____

SAMPLE — Example Owner (fictional)

Enclosures (copies — keep your originals): repair orders (RO 1001, RO 1002, RO 1003, RO 1004); purchase or lease agreement; warranty pages showing coverage.

5. Filing Instructions — Illinois

Deadline check: Your estimated suit deadline (18 months from delivery) (July 10, 2026) appears to have passed 101 days ago. Verify it immediately, and talk to a licensed attorney about your options before relying on these documents.

Step 1 — Direct written notice, then the manufacturer's program

Send document 4 to the manufacturer (not just the dealer). The Illinois AG says lemon law claims can't be started through the dealer: to start, contact the manufacturer's designated representative, and look in your owner's manual or warranty booklet for the manufacturer's informal dispute settlement program. If a qualifying program exists and you were told about it in writing, you must use it before the Act's remedies apply. The AG warns that many consumers lost their remedy by waiting longer than 12 months from purchase.

Step 2 — Circuit court

If the program doesn't resolve it, claims are brought in **circuit court**. The Act sets no filing fee of its own (circuit-court clerk fees apply and vary by county), and the Illinois lemon law **has no attorney's-fee provision** — it does not shift your legal fees to the manufacturer. Filing and litigating a court case is attorney territory: talk to a lemon law attorney before filing alone.

Step 3 — Deadline

Suit must be commenced within **18 months** of original delivery — estimated from the dates you entered: **July 10, 2026**. The limitations period is extended by the days the matter is pending in the informal procedure — keep proof of your filing date there.

Remedies

Repurchase (full purchase price or lease cost, including collateral charges but not taxes paid on the purchase, less a reasonable allowance for use, as limited by §3(c)) or **replacement** with a new vehicle of like model line (or a comparable vehicle). Whether any other law could add damages or fees in your case is a question for an attorney.

What happens next — your dated checklist

Built from the dates and steps in this packet and our state guide. It organizes the process; it is not a prediction of how your case will go.

- Mail document 4 (your notice / demand letter) by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the manufacturer's address in your warranty booklet. You entered May 1, 2025 as your notice date — if it has not gone out yet, send it now.
- Watch for the manufacturer's reply in writing, and log every call (date, name, what was said). Keep the delivery proof for your notice — several steps in this process count from it.
- Your filing window: the deadline estimated in this packet is July 10, 2026 (This deadline appears to have passed — verify immediately). It is only as accurate as the dates you entered — verify it against your own records and the guide before relying on it.
- If your case reaches a hearing or meeting, bring: this packet, every repair order (including "could not duplicate" visits), your mailing proofs, dated photos or videos of the defect, and your call log. Keep the vehicle available for inspection if the forum asks to see it.

Mailing kit

Send document 4 by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the manufacturer's address in your warranty booklet. Use the cover sheet below as the first page of the envelope's contents.

COVER SHEET — keep a copy with your proofs	
From	SAMPLE — Example Owner (fictional)100 Example Street, Sampletown555-010-1234 · example@example.com
To	[Manufacturer Name]the manufacturer's address in your warranty booklet
Date	October 19, 2026
Re	Written notice of nonconformity — 2024 Example Motors Pathway, VIN 1EXAMPLE000000000
Sent by	certified mail, return receipt requested, to the manufacturer's address in your warranty booklet
Enclosed	Demand / notice letter (document 4) · Repair-history organizer (document 2) · Copies of repair orders

Keep these proofs:

- The stamped mailing receipt (certified / registered / overnight) and the tracking number
- The signed return receipt (green card) when it comes back — it proves the delivery date several deadlines count from
- A complete copy or scan of everything you mailed, exactly as mailed
- A log line for the mailing: date, post office or carrier, tracking number, and what was enclosed
- Mail copies, never your only originals of repair orders or contracts

Usage-offset worksheet — an illustration, not your award

This applies the usage rule described in our Illinois guide to the numbers you entered. It is bookkeeping, not a prediction of any refund, award, or eligibility. Taxes, fees, finance charges, incidental costs, and other adjustments are not included.

Our Illinois guide describes refund or replacement without a numeric formula, so no deduction is calculated here. Confirm the figures with your state agency or an attorney.

Line	Figure
A. Purchase price	$35,000.00
B. Odometer at delivery	12
C. Odometer at first repair visit	3,000
D. Current odometer	15,000

Important notices

Some statements in these documents are generated from your answers — read every sentence and delete anything that isn't accurate for your situation. Fill in the bracketed parts. You sign, send, and file everything yourself. Deadlines shown are estimates from the dates you entered — confirm them.

Talk to a lemon law attorney first: Your estimated suit deadline (18 months from delivery) (July 10, 2026) appears to have passed 101 days ago. Verify it immediately, and talk to a licensed attorney about your options before relying on these documents.

Talk to a lemon law attorney first: Illinois' 18-month suit deadline runs from delivery regardless of mileage. If it's close, talk to a lemon law attorney right away.

Not legal advice. This is not legal advice. Lemon law is fact-specific — for advice about your own situation, talk to a licensed attorney in your state. LemonLawPath is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. It provides document automation and general legal information only — no eligibility determinations and no outcome promises. No attorney reviews anything on this site — LemonLawPath is DIY document-automation software, not a law firm.