

Traditional online research services were not cost-effective in researching family law issues.

Accordingly, over ten years ago, Gunnar J. Gitlin over developed a computer system that stores texts of *Gitlin on Divorce reports*. ***Gitlin on Divorce Online Research System*** was originally developed as an “in-house” research tool. The system was been comprehensively updated and is now available online.

The book (*Gitlin on Divorce: A Guide to Illinois Matrimonial Law*) is based on the *Gitlin on Divorce Reports* which are edited by H. Joseph Gitlin and mailed approximately twice per month to subscribers. The book has been cited by appellate court decisions more than 20 times. It is authoritative. *Gitlin on Divorce Reports* contain intelligently reported summaries of Illinois divorce, parentage and adoption cases.

Each time subscribers are mailed copies of the *Gitlin on Divorce Reports*, the reports are downloaded and are available online within days of publication of the reports.

The online research system contains the text of all *Gitlin on Divorce Reports* beginning January 1, 1987, and important prior Illinois Supreme Court Decisions. These are now more than 2,100 cases in the research system. The online system creates a table of contents of all the *Gitlin on Divorce Reports*. After selecting a category such as “Property” a more detailed outline is created. For example, if you are researching the issue of reimbursement to the marital estate due to the personal effort to non-marital property, you would select the “reimbursement” sub-category and then

select the subject, such as “Reasonableness of the Spouse’s Compensation.”

You will then be brought to the appropriate reports with the most recent case being shown first. A hard copy of all the *Gitlin on Divorce Reports* on a given subject can be immediately printed. The reports contain current citations to all three law reporters.

Viewing the outline can determine instantly whether a case is on point. There is also a link to the full text of the case. Unlike Lexis® or Westlaw® the system contains only family law cases and thus research is more efficient.

The online system can do Lexis-type searches and can search for cases from a particular appellate court district, year and/or subject. However, since the database is only of family law decisions, research is far more efficient.

Common Questions Include:

Q: I subscribe to the goldenrod (yellow) sheets (*Gitlin on Divorce Reports*). Do I need to subscribe to the *Gitlin on Divorce Reports* as well as the online system?

A: No. You may choose to subscribe only to the online system. Through the online system you may then choose to print out the most recent *Gitlin on Divorce Reports* from viewing.



Q: I have the most recent version of the book (*Gitlin on Divorce: A Guide to Illinois Matrimonial Law*). What advantage is there to having the book

and subscribing to the online reports?

A: Research on the Illinois family law issues is completed easily by using the book and the reports as one integrated research system. The table of contents for the book dovetails with the reports. For research purposes, it is easiest to get an overview of a subject by reading the appropriate chapter of the book. However, to find which cases are on point, you can readily determine this by reading the full text of the *Gitlin on Divorce Report*. If you subscribe to the online research system, between annual updates to the book, you will be assured that your research is up to date.



Q: Can I receive a trial subscription to the service?

A: Yes. If you wish you may receive a one week trial subscription to ***Gitlin on Divorce Online Research System***.



Q: Does the system have full text of family law cases.

A: Yes – at least back to 1997 there are both full text and the entire case in the research system.

**Gitlin on Divorce
Online Research System**
Gunnar J. Gitlin

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