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ILLINOIS LAW MANUAL

CHAPTER XVI

COMMON CARRIERS

A. DEFINITIONS

A common carrier is any entity that holds itself out to provide service to the general public. Holland Motor Express Inc. v. Illinois Commerce Comm'n., 165 Ill. App. 3d 703, 714 (1st Dist. 1987); Doe v. Rockdale School Dist., No. 84, 287 Ill. App. 3d 1059 (3rd Dist. 1997). Common carriers include buses, trains, taxis, limousines, escalators, and elevators.

A person becomes a passenger of a common carrier when he presents himself at the proper place to be transported with the intention of becoming a passenger and then is either expressly or impliedly accepted by the carrier for transportation. Skelton v. Chicago Transit Authority, 214 Ill. App. 3d 554, 572 (1st Dist. 1991). Places where people are normally accepted for transportation by common carriers include, among others, a waiting room or a station platform. Id. It is not necessary that a person have already paid a fare or have a ticket. The person must only place himself under the care of the carrier so that the circumstances warrant an understanding on the carrier's part that he is or wishes to become a passenger. Id. If the person's offer to become a passenger is not expressly or impliedly accepted by the carrier, then the person is not a passenger. Foote v. Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee R.R. Co., 256 Ill. App. 581 (1930).

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