

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-3-23

FILED  
MAR 23 2020  
A. W. W. W.  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
PURSUANT TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC/IMPACT ON TRIALS

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered Order M.R. 30370, In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency/Impact on Trials. Said Order states “In the exercise of the general administrative and supervisory authority over the courts of Illinois conferred on this Court pursuant to Article VI, Section 16 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 (Ill.Const.1970, art. VI, sect. 16), and in view of the state of emergency that has been declared by the Governor of the State of Illinois in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus;”

**WHEREAS**, said order directs that “the Chief Judges of each circuit may continue trials for the next 60 days and until further order” of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

**WHEREAS**, said order further directs that “In the case of criminal proceedings, any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for purposes of section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018))”.

**WHEREAS**, with the March 20, 2020 entry of Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370 referred to hereinabove, an Administrative Order for the First Judicial Circuit, nine counties, is necessary and required.

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Judge of the First Judicial Circuit specifically finds that the interests of justice also require continuance of these matters due to state and nationally recognized public health dangers of summoning a jury and/or conducting trials and that the ordering of these continuances is in the best interest of the public, including parties, witnesses, and all court personnel in order to follow the emergency declarations of our state and national authorities.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** by the Chief Judge of the First Judicial Circuit of Illinois that all matters set for trial in the First Judicial Circuit of Illinois are continued for a period of 60 days from the entry of M.R. 30370 issued by the Supreme Court of Illinois dated March 20, 2020.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all criminal matters set for trial in the First Judicial Circuit of Illinois are continued for a period of 60 days from the entry of M.R. 30370 issued by the Supreme Court of Illinois dated March 20, 2020. Any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable either the State or the defendant for the purposes of section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018)).

**THIS ORDER** is effective March 20, 2020.

**FILED**  
MAR 23 2020  
*A.W.W.*  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**DATED:** March 23, 2020

**ENTERED:** *James R. Williamson*  
James R. Williamson  
Chief Judge