



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
18th Judicial Circuit Court - DuPage County, Illinois

DANIEL P. GUERIN
Chief Judge

June 3, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Office of the Chief Judge

505 North County Farm Road

Wheaton, Illinois 60187

DuPage County Courts to Resume Court Operations

Beginning June 8, 2020, courts in the 18th Judicial Circuit (DuPage County) will resume hearing all court matters either in-person or by remote means. Chief Judge Daniel P. Guerin issued an Administrative Order today outlining the procedures to be followed for the safe and efficient resumption of court business.

“As we resume hearing all court matters, the health and safety of the public and all justice system partners and employees remains our highest priority,” said Chief Judge Guerin. “Court matters will proceed under a plan to carefully and gradually introduce persons into the court facilities over a period of time.”

Protocols have been implemented in an effort to protect the health and safety of all persons using court facilities. These include:

- Daily court calls are significantly reduced or will proceed by remote means only.
- Persons represented by a public defender or private attorney are not required to appear in court until or unless ordered to do so by a judge.
- Temperature readings will be taken of all persons upon entry.
- Face-coverings are required to be worn within the public spaces and courtrooms of court facilities. Persons are expected to have their own face-coverings.

- Courtroom and hallway seating is clearly marked for social distancing. Seating is limited and only those persons necessary for the court proceeding (attorney, litigant, witness, victim) should enter the court facility. Other persons may be asked to exit or wait in specially designated waiting areas.
- Plexiglass shields and hand sanitizer dispensers are installed and located inside the courtrooms and other designated areas.
- Housekeeping staff conducts frequent and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of court facility areas and surfaces.

On May 20, 2020 the Illinois Supreme Court issued Order M.R. 30370 authorizing each circuit court to return to hearing all court matters, whether in-person or remotely, according to a schedule to be adopted by each chief judge. The Order also directed circuit courts to allow for social distancing and attempt to reduce the number of persons appearing personally for court appearances.

Under the DuPage Administrative Order, civil matters in the Chancery, Domestic Relations and Law divisions will proceed by remote means only using various technologies, including the Zoom platform. Only emergency matters, order of protection returns and bench trials will be conducted in-person, until further order of the court.

Criminal matters in the Felony, Misdemeanor and Traffic divisions will proceed in-person. Bail hearings will proceed both in-person in the assigned felony courtroom Monday through Friday or in video bond court Monday through Friday. Weekend and holiday bond courts will proceed as currently scheduled.

Traffic court matters in all traffic courtrooms will proceed in-person. Addison Traffic Court is temporarily relocated into the main courthouse at 505 N. County Farm Road in Wheaton and will be held in the first-floor annex room at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

Petitions and hearings on emergency and plenary orders of protection, stalking/no contact orders, civil no contact orders and firearm restraining orders will proceed in-person.

Specialty court matters involving Drug Court, Mental Health Court (MICAP), First Offender Drug Court (FOCUS) and Veterans Court will proceed in-person and staffings and graduations will continue in a manner and method in the judge's discretion.

Juvenile court matters will proceed either in-person or remotely in the judge's discretion and consistent with the Administrative Order.

No criminal jury trials will take place before July 20, 2020 and no civil jury trials will take place before August 24, 2020. All bench trials will take place on a date and time set by the assigned judge.

All eviction matters shall be suspended through and including June 30, 2020. No arbitration hearings will take place before July 28, 2020.

Marriage and civil union ceremonies will begin June 11, 2020 and will be conducted on Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 630-407-8232. The rules and guidelines for ceremonies are available at <https://www.dupageco.org/courts/>.

The DuPage County law library will resume regular operations on June 8, 2020. The Safe Harbor Children's waiting room will be closed until further order of the court.

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A copy of the Administrative Order is attached.

Additional information can be found at the following:

For the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, go to: <https://www.dupageco.org/courts/>

For the Clerk of the Circuit Court, go to: <https://www.18thjudicial.org/18thJudicial/>

For information on court dates, attorneys can go to <https://eaccess.18thjudicial.org> (*eaccess*) and the general public can go to <https://epay.18thjudicial.org> (*epay*).

For assistance with Orders of Protection, please contact Family Shelter Services at <https://www.metrofamily.org/fssofmfspd/get-help/> or (630) 469-5650

Court Contact:

Suzanne Armstrong
Court Administrator
(630) 407-8901