

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF ILLINOIS FOR THE COUNTIES OF ADAMS, BROWN, CALHOUN, CASS,
MASON, MENARD, PIKE, and SCHUYLER**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. _____

WHEREAS, the Courts of the Eighth Judicial Circuit will take all reasonable measures to minimize personal contact to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to take steps to protect the health and safety of all employees, judges, attorneys, and litigants who have court hearings or other business within the Eighth Judicial Circuit while also balancing the rights of all said individuals and parties to litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court has entered an Order in M.R. 30370 instructing the courts to continue to establish and periodically update procedures to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the court system, while continuing to provide access to justice; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court modified its Order of March 17, 2020 to allow each Judicial Circuit to hear regular cases as set forth by the Chief Judge of each circuit effective June 1, 2020, provided proper safety is enacted to protect the public and court facility staff; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, under Supreme Court Rule 21, has general administrative authority over the dockets of this Circuit and authority to enter Orders affecting the general scheduling of cases within this Circuit.

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED for all counties within the Eighth Judicial Circuit, including Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Mason, Menard, Pike and Schuyler are as follows:

- I. All Judges of the Eighth Judicial Circuit (Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Mason, Menard, Pike and Schuyler) are authorized to return to hearing regular court matters with proper safety precautions in place.
- II. In doing so, the Judges shall consider, but not be limited to, the following law related factors:
 - a. Deadlines, which apply to a case or class of cases.
 - b. The length of time any applicable deadline has been suspended by order of the Supreme Court or the Circuit Court.
 - c. Limitations in court facilities and staffing.
 - d. Anticipated prejudice to any class of cases as a result of continued delay.
- III. In doing so, the Judges shall also consider, but not be limited to, the following health related factors:

- a. Each county shall, to the extent possible, allow for appropriate social distancing and attempt to reduce the number of persons appearing personally for court appearances.
 - b. Face masks shall be required for members of the public to enter the courthouses in the courthouses where such an order is in place.
 - c. Social distancing reminders such as signs and tape lines shall be placed in public areas where appropriate.
 - d. No member of the public with symptoms of COVID-19 or who has had close contact with a person known to have the virus shall be admitted.
 - e. Users of the court system are discouraged from bringing family and friends to the courthouses unless they are witnesses, or unless they otherwise have a Constitutional or Statutory right to be present.
 - f. Applicable information from public health authorities.
- IV. The Presiding/Resident Circuit Judge of each county is authorized to enact specific policy and procedures to address their individual courthouses and case needs and shall continue to promote the use of remote hearings where appropriate.
- V. To reduce the number of people in the courthouses, the Courts will, to the extent possible, reduce the number of cases slotted for each court call. This will in many instances require staggered court times. Attorneys are reminded that they appear at the designated time in order to make this process work.
- VI. In consultation with the Chief Judge, Judges assigned to jury dockets may continue jury trials until further order of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Pursuant to the May 20, 2020, Supreme Court Order such continuances shall be excluded from speedy trial computations contained in section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018)) and section 5-601 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/5-601 (West 2018)). The statutory time restrictions are also tolled, when a trial is delayed when the court determines proper social distancing and facility limitations prevent the trial from proceeding safely provided the Judge finds such limitations necessitated its delay and makes a record thereof.

THIS ORDER SHALL BE EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2020.

Dated: May 28, 2020



J. FRANK McCARTNEY, CHIEF JUDGE
EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT