

**CIRCUIT JUDGES**  
Marc P. Bernabei  
Eugene P. Daugherty  
Joseph P. Hettel  
Troy D. Holland  
Robert C. Marsaglia  
Lance R. Peterson  
Cynthia M. Raccuglia  
H. Chris Ryan, Jr.

**ASSOCIATE JUDGES**  
Karen C. Eiten  
Cornelius J. Hollerich  
Michael C. Jansz  
Sheldon R. Sobol  
Michelle A. Vescogni

**H. Chris Ryan, Jr.**  
**CHIEF JUDGE**  
State of Illinois  
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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**COURT ADMINISTRATOR**  
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Dawn Bidasio  
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Jennifer Sellett  
**COUNTIES**  
La Salle  
Bureau  
Grundy

### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Continues to Operate under Reduced Capacity and Trials Continued**

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Courts (which consists of LaSalle, Bureau and Grundy Counties) remain open, but will continue operating at a reduced capacity performing only essential and emergency functions through May 30, 2020 unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Governor J.B. Pritzker has indicated he will be entering a modified executive order extending his previous Stay at Home Order until the end of May, 2020, therefore Chief Judge Ryan has entered an updated Administrative Order governing the operation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. While keeping the courts available, all proceedings must be consistent with public safety as well as any further policy directives from federal, state and local public health advisories.

### **Beginning Friday, May 1, 2020 through Friday, May 29, 2020 unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the following cases and court proceedings are postponed:**

- All Non-Emergency civil court appearances, including Civil Jury Trials, Probate, Small Claims, Family Court, Child Support, Law & Law Magistrate, Chancery, Tax cases, Miscellaneous Remedy cases and Adoptions
- Traffic cases (TR, DT)
- Misdemeanor cases (CM)
- Juvenile cases (except as outlined below)
- Marriages (not currently scheduled as of 4/27/20)
- Courthouse tours

Each party litigant shall receive an amended notice in the mail upon rescheduling. Litigants are directed to ensure that their mailing address is updated and current. Emergency matters may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. Individuals shall contact the Clerk of the judge that the case is assigned to for purposes of scheduling emergency matters.

**The following court proceedings will be held as scheduled, with appearances expected for all litigants unless travel or health appearance waivers apply (see below):**

- All matters with individuals in custody
- Criminal felony matters (CF)
- Juvenile temporary custody (shelter care) (JA)
- Juvenile detention hearings (JD)
- Petitions for Emergency Orders of Protection (OP, D, F)
- Hearings for Plenary Orders of Protection (OP, D, F)
- Emergency hearings on family matters (D and F cases) as scheduled by the Court
- Hearings on Petitions to Rescind Summary Suspensions
- Grand Jury proceedings
- Grundy County Mental Health Court
- Grundy County Drug Court

If you have a court date that requires an appearance as listed above and are ill, please consider taking the following steps:

- Contact your attorney or opposing side to determine if an agreed continuance can be obtained and submitted to the Court.
- If there is no agreement, contact the Clerk of the judge assigned to the case and advise that you are not able to attend court due to illness. Judges will consider on a case-by-case basis whether a continuance will be granted.

The following individuals **should not** enter the courthouse and their appearance in court will be waived if they:

- Have been out of the country within the last 21 days, or
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been out of the country within the last 21 days; or
- Have been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for coronavirus by any medical provider; or
- Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
- Have flu-like symptoms including, fever, cough, sneezing, or shortness of breath

In a further measure to combat the COVID-19 virus, Chief Judge has ordered that all Circuit and Associate Judges of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Courts (LaSalle, Bureau and Grundy Counties) are authorized to continue criminal and juvenile cases set for trial. “The Court has already reduced its operations to essential matters only,” said Chief Judge H. Chris Ryan, Jr. “The Supreme Court has given the Circuit Courts permission to suspend trials and adjust the speedy trial deadlines accordingly. Because jury trials involve the presences of multiple people, including parties, lawyers, witnesses, jurors and the judge, delaying them is a prudent decision to guard against transmission of the virus.”

For petit jurors: If you have any doubt about your status, please call the jury contact number listed on your summons for more information.

For Grand Jurors, if you are currently serving on the Grand Jury, please call the phone number on your summons for more information. Grand Jury service has NOT necessarily been canceled circuit-wide.

Other essential court business is still being conducted. “The Governor’s shelter-in-place order explicitly excludes essential government functions and court personnel,” Judge Ryan said, “and the order further provides that each governmental entity will determine what constitutes its essential functions; we have already taken those steps. The public should be aware that the Court continues to receive filings, conduct criminal bond court, and conduct other essential proceedings as necessary.”