

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF
ILLINOIS

In re:)
)
Guidance to Circuit Court) M.R. 33005
Judges Regarding Location of)
Court Proceedings)
)

Order

Public access to court proceedings is guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Illinois and is essential to maintaining public trust, confidence, and transparency in the judicial system. In furtherance of these principles, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45(b)(5) states as follows:

Where the option to appear remotely exists, courts shall not deny access to case participants who choose to participate by appearing in person or who cannot appear remotely without assistance and shall allow individuals who come to the courthouse to participate by appearing physically in the courtroom. If the courtroom, case type, or proceeding type cannot accommodate an in-person case participant, then courts shall inform case participants of this limitation in advance, if possible, and supply the appropriate technology and technical support for anyone who comes to the courthouse so that they may participate remotely.

Pursuant to the Court's general administrative and supervisory authority over all courts, effective immediately, all Illinois judges presiding over cases in the circuit courts shall, except as enumerated below, comply with Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45(b)(5) and be physically present in their assigned courtroom when presiding over court proceedings, including when attorneys, parties, or other case participants, as defined by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45, appear remotely.

Under the discretion of the chief judge or presiding judge, exceptions may include, but are not limited to, courthouse closures due to inclement weather or other emergencies; a judge's temporary health-related inability to appear in person; proceedings conducted off-site or outside of regular business hours in conjunction with a special event or court call; or other circumstances implicating access to justice considerations.

Consistent with Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45, nothing in this Order shall be construed to limit or discourage the appropriate use of remote court proceedings for the benefit of attorneys, litigants, and other case participants.

Order entered by the Court.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
subscribed my name and affixed the
seal of said Court, this 23rd day of
February, 2026.

Cynthia A. Grant

Clerk,
Supreme Court of the State of Illinois

FILED
February 23, 2026
SUPREME COURT
CLERK