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***FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
(Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle and Stephenson Counties)***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On March 17, 2020, The Supreme Court of Illinois entered an Order limiting circuit courts to hear only "essential cases".

On May 20, 2020, the Supreme Court of Illinois 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. On May 20, 2020, an Administrative Order was entered by the Chief Judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit authorizing the Presiding Judges of the 15th Judicial Circuit (Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle and Stephenson Counties) to set forth schedules and proper safety precautions to hear regular cases. The order requires each county, to the extent possible, to allow for appropriate social distancing and attempt to reduce the number of persons appearing personally for court appearances. Face masks will be required for members of the public to enter the judicial facilities. Social distancing reminders such as signs and tape lines will be placed in public areas. NO member of the public with symptoms of COVID-19 or who has had close contact with a person known to have the virus will be admitted. Users of the judicial facilities are discouraged from bringing family and friends to the judicial facilities unless they are witnesses

The Presiding Judge of each county is authorized to enact specific policies and procedures to address their individual judicial facility and case needs.

The Administrative Order is effective June 1, 2020, at which time regular cases may be heard within the 15th Judicial Circuit provided the health and safety of all court users, staff and judicial officers are properly protected.

Robert T. Hanson, Chief Judge