

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF CONDUCTING)
HEARINGS PURSUANT TO SAFE-T ACT)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2024-05

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2023, the pretrial release provisions of Public Acts 101-652 and 102-1104, commonly known as the Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-Today Act (SAFE-T Act) went into effect; and

WHEREAS, the SAFE-T Act permits hearings to be conducted by two-way audio-visual communication systems if, among other exceptions, the chief judge of the circuit orders the use of those systems due to operational challenges in conducting hearings in person; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Illinois entered Order M.R. 31888 on August 30, 2023, finding statewide operational challenges existed to conducting all hearings relating to pretrial detention or conditions of pretrial release pursuant to the SAFE-T Act in person for a period of six (6) months following September 18, 2023, and ordered that due to these statewide operational challenges, there was a basis for circuit courts to use two-way audio-visual communication systems to conduct any hearings relating to pretrial detention and conditions of pretrial release where necessary; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 31888 was amended on March 18, 2024, finding that statewide operational challenges continue to exist to conducting the hearings relating to pretrial detention and conditions of pretrial release pursuant to the SAFE-T Act in person for an extended period of six (6) months following March 18, 2024, and ordering that a chief judge who seeks to permit the use of two-way audio-visual communication systems for purposes of conducting any hearings related to pretrial detention or conditions of pretrial release shall enter a local order approving the operational challenges as documented in Amended Order M.R. 31888 and ordering the use of two-way audio-visual communication systems in their circuit where necessary;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Chief Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit approves the operational challenges as documented by Illinois Supreme Court Amended Order M.R. 31888 entered on March 18, 2024, and orders the use of two-way audio-visual communication systems within the Second Judicial Circuit for purposes of conducting any hearings related to pretrial detention or conditions of pretrial release where necessary.

Entered this 18th day of March, 2024.



Melissa A. Morgan, Chief Judge