



*For Immediate Release*

Date: January 5, 2022

## **Kane County Court Operations Scaled Back Due to Coronavirus**

Clint Hull, Chief Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in Kane County, has ordered that the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit will shift from in-person appearances to remote appearances beginning Monday, January 10, 2022 and lasting through Friday, February 4, 2022. (General Order 22-01)

Chief Judge Hull said, “It has been our goal throughout the pandemic to keep our public as safe as possible while still providing the means to seek justice in our court system. The decision to shift to remote appearances is in response to the increasing positivity rates throughout Kane County and the State of Illinois” and “This decision was made in order to protect the health and safety of the general public and courthouse employees and made after consultation with the Presiding Judges and offices of the County Board, State’s Attorney, Public Defender, Court Services, Circuit Clerk, and representatives of the private bar.”

The Kane County Courthouse (100 South Third Street, Geneva), Kane County Judicial Center (37W777 Route 38, St. Charles), and Kane County Juvenile Justice Center (37W655 Route 38, St. Charles) will remain open to hearing only orders of protection, jury trials, or by order of the court.

All other scheduled cases will be heard remotely. According to Chief Judge Hull, “The Sixteenth Circuit has the equipment, experience, and technology to allow us to keep the courts operating through the use of remote hearing via the Zoom platform. Unlike at the start of COVID, litigants, attorneys, judges have become familiar with the use of Zoom, and, as a result, our courts can keep cases moving through the system while not requiring in-person appearances.”

Court-goers will need to download the free Zoom app to their mobile device, go to <https://www.KaneCourt.org> in any internet browser, click on Join Zoom Court, find their courtroom number, and click on Join Hearing to attend remote court.

The Aurora Branch Court (1200 East Indian Trail Road, Aurora), Elgin Branch Court (150 Dexter Court, Elgin), and Kane County Branch Court (530 S. Randall Road, St. Charles) will be closed for in-person appearances starting January 10, 2022, through Friday, February 4, 2022. During this time, ALL branch court cases will be heard via Zoom. The branch courts will re-open to in-person appearances on Monday, February 7, 2022.

“We will continue to monitor the situation daily,” Chief Judge Clint Hull said. “We appreciate the cooperation we have received from everyone involved in the court system. We are doing our best to balance the needs of protecting the public and the court staff while keeping the courthouses open to hearing those cases that must be heard. We are focused on those cases that involve individuals who are in-custody and those matters required for the protection of individuals and the public. I want to thank everyone for their understanding and patience.”

Chief Judge Hull noted that if court-users have questions about remote court access or other court procedures, they may call or visit the Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Center at 630.406.7126, or use the chat/email feature on the Law Library’s website at <https://www.KCLawLibrary.org>. Additional information can be found at the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit website at <https://www.Illinois16thJudicialCircuit.org> or by following the Sixteenth Circuit Court’s Facebook page @16thCircuitCoronavirusInfo.

A copy of General Order 22-01 is attached.

For further information, contact:

Nancy Feely, Administrative Assistant

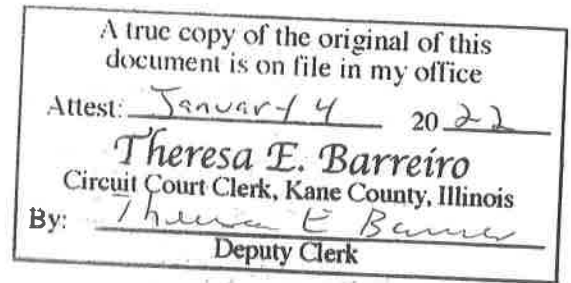
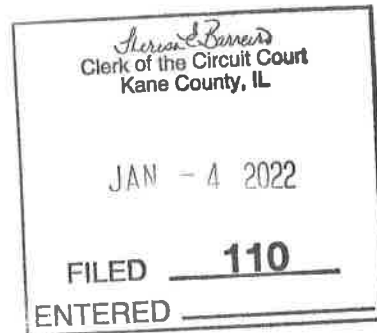
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**IN THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
**GENERAL ORDER 22-01**  
*Effective January 10, 2022*

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
**AMENDING AND SUPERSEDING** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 20-07,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 20-14,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 20-18,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 20-22** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 20-29,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 20-30,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 21-01,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 21-02,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 21-04,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 21-06,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 21-11,** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 21-12 and** )  
**GENERAL ORDER 21-18** )  
**COVID-19 EMERGENCY MEASURES** )  
**IMPACTING COURT OPERATIONS** )



**WHEREAS**, in light of the rate of infection of the Coronavirus variants continuing to increase, and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public, Circuit Court Judges and Circuit Court employees, and after consultation with the offices of the Kane County State’s Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Circuit Clerk, County Board, and representatives of the private bar, and pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the Court’s inherent authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Supreme Court’s Order M.R. 30370 of May 20, 2020 allowing circuits to adopt their own plans for resumption of court activity; and

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that except as necessary for the purposes enumerated below, all judges and judicial employees of the Circuit Court of Kane County shall be encouraged to work remotely and conduct business telephonically or via videoconference from the effective date of this order. All Judges will be available to sign orders remotely and conduct remote hearings at their discretion.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED**, that effective January 10, 2022 through February 4, 2022 the following procedures are in effect in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit:

- 1) **COURT OPERATIONS:** Each Division has entered Administrative Orders establishing their procedures for each Division. Attorneys and self-represented litigants appearing in these Divisions should consult the Administrative Orders (found under Court Orders on the Kane County Circuit Clerk’s Office website, [cic.co.kane.il.us](http://cic.co.kane.il.us)) to learn about the scheduling and procedures that must be followed for their case. It is each

Divisions' goal to incorporate, retain, and balance in-person and remote court for the benefit of all court users.

- 2) **REMOTE HEARING:** Pursuant to each Divisions' Administrative Order, if a case is going to be heard remotely, parties should plan to appear as scheduled, to make a timely appearance, and should familiarize themselves with the "Guidelines for Virtual Courtroom Proceedings of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit" and the Illinois Supreme Court Remote Access Policy, effective January 1, 2020, and revised effective January 1, 2022.

A "remote hearing" is one that is conducted either telephonically or via a video conferencing system. A "remote hearing" includes, but is not limited to, status dates, pleas, motion hearings, and trials. The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit utilizes the Zoom video conferencing platform.

Each judge may exercise his or her discretion in establishing additional parameters for remote hearings.

- 3) **CRIMINAL JURY TRIALS:** All Criminal jury trials set from January 10, 2022 to February 4, 2022 will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays in Courtroom 201 pursuant to the Criminal Division Administrative Order titled "Amended Administrative Order – Criminal Division: In the Matter of COVID-19 Criminal Jury Trial Procedures" dated January 4, 2022.
- 4) **CIVIL JURY TRIALS:** All Civil jury trials will proceed as scheduled. The scheduling of jury trials will be handled by the judge assigned to the case.
- 5) **BOND CALL/ORDERS OF PROTECTION/EXPUNGEMENTS (COURTROOM 005):** Bond call will continue to be heard remotely at the Kane County Judicial Center using the Zoom platform. Aurora and Elgin bond call matters will also be heard remotely at the Kane County Judicial Center. The Courtroom will be open for in-person appearances for emergency orders of protection, stalking/no contact orders, civil no contact orders, plenary orders of protection hearings and expungements.
- 6) **MASK/FACE COVERINGS:** Pursuant to General Order 20-21, "In the Matter of COVID-19 Requirement of Masks in All Courthouse Locations," all persons in public areas of the courthouse, including courtrooms, must wear a mask/face covering unless the judge presiding over the courtroom gives permission to remove the mask/face covering in order to participate in court proceedings.
- 7) **ADDITIONAL PERSONS DISCOURAGED:** In the event that an in-person appearance is permitted by the Judge, litigants are encouraged not to bring any other person with them to the courthouse.
- 8) **BENCH WARRANTS AND DEFAULTS:** Judges may refrain, in appropriate circumstances, from the issuance of bench warrants or the entry of default judgments.

- 9) **MENTAL HEALTH:** All hearings will continue as scheduled.
- 10) **SPECIALTY COURTS:** Drug Court, Treatment Alternative Court (Mental Health Court), and Veterans Court will continue to be held remotely. Defendants may be ordered to appear by his/her Probation Officer.
- 11) **WEDDINGS:** Weddings will be performed until further order of Court. Weddings shall be limited to the Bride and Groom and any minor children.
- 12) **KANE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY & SELF HELP LEGAL CENTER:** The Law Library and Self Help Legal Center will remain open.
- 13) **ARBITRATION/BANKRUPTCY/WORKERS COMPENSATION:** All hearings will proceed as scheduled.
- 14) **CHILDREN'S WAITING ROOM:** The waiting room will remain open.
- 15) **OTHER MATTERS:** Non-essential gatherings, meetings, and programs that are scheduled for the Kane County Courthouse, Kane County Judicial Center, or the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center may be held upon authorization by the Chief Judge or Court Administration.

The Court may issue further Orders, as necessary, to address the changing circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic.

Entered this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022, and effective January 10, 2022.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clint Hull", is written over a horizontal line.

Clint Hull, Chief Judge