

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-3-18

**FILED**

**MAR 18 2020**

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
PURSUANT TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

*[Signature]*  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered Order M.R. 30370, In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency. Said Order, paragraph A., states: "All Illinois courts shall continue to establish and periodically update, as necessary, temporary procedures to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the court system, while continuing to provide access to justice." Paragraph A. further states: "Each court shall immediately provide its orders and other communications on temporary procedures to the Supreme Court through its Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. The Supreme Court Communications Office will post information on the Court's website."

**WHEREAS**, with the March 17, 2020 entry of Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370 referred to hereinabove, an Administrative Order for the First Judicial Circuit, nine counties, is necessary and required.

**WHEREAS**, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to protect the general health and well-being of the general public, there has been declared both a state of emergency in Illinois and a national emergency in the United States of America.

**WHEREAS**, the above declarations direct that large gatherings of persons are to be avoided and group activities have been restricted in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 illness to the general public.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the administrative authority given to the Chief Circuit Judge pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21 and the court's inherent authority,

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** by the Chief Judge of the First Judicial Circuit of Illinois that the following cases set in the First Judicial Circuit Court which have a scheduled court date are postponed:

- Civil matters, including jury trials
- Law (L)
- Law Magistrate (LM)
- Chancery (CH)
- Traffic violations (TR, DT)
- Ordinance violations (OV, CL)
- Misdemeanor cases (CM)
- Probate (P)

- Family cases (F, D, and AD)
- Juvenile cases (except as outlined below)
- Marriages
- Criminal and Traffic Reviews
- Tax cases (TX)
- Miscellaneous Remedies (MR)
- Eminent Domain (ED)
- Pay or Appear Court
- City Courts (Jackson County)
- Spanish Court (Jackson County)

Each party litigant shall receive a notice in the mail upon rescheduling. Litigants are directed to ensure that their mailing addresses are updated and current. Litigants may contact the Circuit Clerk in the county of the pending case with any questions.

Emergency matters may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. Individuals shall contact the Circuit Clerk in the county where the case is to be heard for the purpose of seeking approval from the Court to schedule an emergency matter.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

- All matters with individuals in custody, including bond review
- Criminal felony matters except probation and payment reviews
- Juvenile temporary custody hearings (shelter care)
- Juvenile detention hearings
- Petitions for Emergency Order of Protection/No Contact Stalking Orders (OP)
- Plenary Order of Protection/No Contact Stalking Orders
- Emergency hearings in family matters (D and F cases) scheduled with approval of the Court.
- Any other emergency hearing as scheduled and approved by the Court.

It is requested that individuals should not enter the courthouse if they:

- Have traveled outside of the United States and have returned to the United States within 21 days; or
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been out of the United States and has returned to the United States within 21 days; or
- Have been directed to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor at home for the 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, or shortness of breath.

If you are an attorney or litigant and have a scheduled case, appointment, or are otherwise required to appear at the courthouse in connection with a court case, but are unable to appear because of the above restrictions, please contact the Circuit Clerk in the county where the case is pending.

**THIS ORDER** is effective March 18, 2020.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**DATED:** 3-18-20

**ENTERED:** James R. Williamson  
James R. Williamson  
Chief Judge