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PRESS RELEASE

Counties
Crawford
Edwards
Franklin
Gallatin
Hamilton
Hardin
Jefferson
Lawrence
Richland
Wabash
Wayne
White

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS COURTS REMAIN OPEN WITH PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING COVID-19

As the courts of the twelve counties within the Second Judicial Circuit of Illinois perform essential functions, all court facilities within the circuit will remain open. Although the present risk level has been deemed as low at this time, public health agencies are recommending that contact with one another should be minimized in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The courts within the Second Judicial Circuit will be taking the following precautions:

Court Facilities and Employees:

- All employees have been encouraged to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;

stay home when ill or if having had contact with anyone who has the COVID-19 coronavirus; avoid close contact with persons who are sick; and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

- Custodial staff are conducting regular cleaning and disinfection of court facilities with emphasis on public areas which have frequent contact (doorknobs, restroom and elevator areas, etc).

Attorneys, Litigants and Parties to a Case

- If you have a case scheduled and you begin to feel ill, you should consider contacting the opposing party or attorney to explore an agreed continuance.
- If there is no agreement, contact the circuit clerk's office to advise that you are unable to attend court. Judges will consider on a case-by-case basis whether the continuance of a court date is in order. Providing medical documentation of your condition will be of assistance.

Jury Service

- If you are summoned for jury service and are experiencing any symptoms of illness, please contact the Circuit Clerk of your county and advise them of the situation for further instruction before coming in person to the court facilities.

General Public

- The court facilities in the Second Circuit remain open. However, if you are experiencing any acute respiratory illness symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, headaches), flu-like symptoms, fever, coughing or sneezing, please do not come to the court facilities. If you do come to the court facility with such symptoms, the court may refuse you access to the court facilities.

Adult and Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Detention, Court Services

- All probation, detention and court services facilities remain open.
- A plan has been developed to limit contact with persons who are exhibiting symptoms of illness.
- Probationers who are feeling ill or have had contact with the COVID-19 coronavirus should contact their probation officer via telephone and not appear at the probation office.

This situation presents challenges to the Court's normal operating procedures. The Second Circuit continues to examine procedures to preserve the public health while continuing to perform the function of an operational court system. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated.