

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 -04

MAR 17 2020

CIRCUIT WIDE EMERGENCY ORDER RE: COVID-19

Christina M. Tjoe
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

WHEREAS, The existence and spread of COVID-19 has resulted in the declaration of a world-wide pandemic and national, state and/or local states of emergency, making it imperative to take steps to protect the health of all employees, staff, attorneys, litigants and visitors who have court related matters within the courthouses of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, while balancing the rights of all individuals and their cases.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary to take quick action to reduce in person visits to courtrooms due to the above, as well as per direction of the Illinois Supreme Court.

WHEREAS, the undersigned, as Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 21, does exercise the following general administrative authority over the court dockets of this Circuit.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED: All court related matters within the 10th Circuit are hereby subject to the terms of this ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER, unless extended or modified hereafter:

This ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER, effective March 19, 2020 is in addition to any prior Administrative Order and Press Release issued by the Courts in any county of the Tenth Circuit on this topic, noting that the timeline and area of travel restrictions contained therein is modified, now as then, to 14 days and to include EUROPE. See, www.10thcircuitcourtil.org

1. The following cases, matters and trials which have court dates presently set through April 17, 2020, are postponed[^].

- *Civil matters (L, LM, SC), except TRO's.
- *Chancery, Probate, Miscellaneous Remedies and Tax matters and Landlord/Tenant (CH, P, MR, TX, LM), except adult guardianships, Mental Health or Health emergency cases.
- *Traffic and DUI cases (TR and DT), except bond court, review of bond and Statutory Summary Suspensions.
- *Family Cases (F, D) except Orders of Protections related thereto.
- *Criminal felony and Misdemeanor matters (CF and CM), except bond court, bond reviews, arraignments, and speedy trial demands.
- *Ordinance Violation and Civil Law matters (OV and CL).
- *Marriages for any license obtained after March 17th. Any marriage conducted in the courthouse for licenses issued on and prior to March 17th shall be limited to just the couple being married.
- *Non-essential gatherings. In addition, guests/family of litigants are discouraged from attending.

[^]New dates will be rescheduled between parties/counsel of record, the State's Attorney's office, the Public Defender's office and the courtroom clerk, or directly by courtroom clerk via mailing (e.g. TR cases) to the last known address of a party. Note: Self-Represented Litigants are required to notify the circuit clerk's office of any change of address promptly and know when their next court date is.

2. The following matters may continue to be heard, as scheduled or to be scheduled in normal course, in addition to the exceptions mentioned above.

- *Plea agreements in any felony or misdemeanor case.
- *Orders of Protection, No Contact/Stalking (OP), both emergency and plenary.
- *Emergency hearings/matters in any case type. Reserved for emergencies or essential hearings to be allowed at sound discretion of judge.
- *Juvenile Abuse/Neglect & Delinquency cases re: shelter care hearings and hearings related to detained minors. All other JA and JD related matters are postponed until after April 17, 2020.

3. Phone Conference and Video Conference Exceptions.

- Despite the postponement of cases mentioned above, the litigants/attorneys may be able to conduct routine, regular hearings in any of the above cases by phone conference (such as CourtCall), video connection from the County Jail or Juvenile Detention Center, or Zoom video conference, if available and allowed by the presiding judge of the particular matter.

4. Sheriff's office involvement:

- Due to high demand, attention needed elsewhere, and the potential for reduced staff, the Sheriff's office may determine its priorities for court related matters, such as evictions, need to be postponed or modified for a certain amount of time and this Court approves, unless otherwise Ordered.

5. Jury service:

For both jury duty and grand juries, see prior Press Release and A.O. 2020-03 found at: www.10thcircuitcourtil.org

ENTERED: March 17, 2020


Paul P. Gilfillan, Chief Judge

EFFECTIVE: March 19, 2020 SUBJECT TO EXTENSION