



## News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge  
19th Judicial Circuit  
Lake County  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: March 12, 2020  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois

### COURT OPERATIONS AND COVID-19

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in Lake County is open and will continue to monitor state and local responses to the coronavirus and will follow guidance provided by state and local public health agencies and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Out of an abundance of caution and in an effort to be proactive, the Chief Judge has directed that the following steps will be taken to reduce the number of people entering the courthouse.

#### Employees and Facility:

- 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 sick; avoid close contact with people who are sick; and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Facility crews are conducting regular cleanings with an emphasis on first-touch areas such as doors knobs and areas inside elevators and restrooms.

#### Jury Service:

- There is a plan to limit the number of jurors called for service.
- If you are summoned for jury service and are experiencing any acute respiratory illness symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, headaches), flu-like symptoms, have a fever, or are coughing or sneezing, contact the jury office on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 847-377-4600 to defer your service to a later date. These are standard procedures but especially important at this time.

#### Expansion of Remote Court Appearances:

- Attorneys or litigants that are unable to be present in courtrooms hearing Civil and Family matters (except Orders of Protection) may be able to appear remotely through use of CourtCall telephonic service. To schedule your appearance through CourtCall, call 1-888-882-6878 or email [assist@CourtCall.com](mailto:assist@CourtCall.com)
- If you have questions about remote appearances, contact the Court Administration Office at 847-377-3600

#### Courthouse Tours, Educational Events:

- All scheduled courthouse tours, trainings and educational events are canceled until further notice.

#### Adult and Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Detention:

- Probation and Detention remain open.
- A plan has been implemented to limit in-person contacts and suspension of certain large group meetings.
- Certain treatment related group meetings will be relocated to larger areas to accommodate social distancing.
- Probationers who are feeling sick or have had contact with someone who has the coronavirus should contact their probation officer. Probation clients should also contact their probation officer if they have any questions about their next appointment.
- Implementation of additional screening measures during intake process to identify individuals that may be experiencing symptoms, or had exposure to others, related to COVID-19.
- Implementation of remote visitation procedures for persons held at the detention center or FACE-IT residential program.

#### Law Library and Kids Korner:

- Both facilities are open to the public and are fully operational.
- If you are experiencing any acute respiratory illness symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, headaches), flu-like symptoms, have a fever, or are coughing or sneezing, please do not visit the Law Library.
- If a child is at all symptomatic, they will not be admitted into Kids' Korner.

These are precautionary measures only. The health and welfare of all employees and courthouse users is our priority. As more information becomes available or if there are changes to court operations, we will advise.

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[www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us](http://www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us)

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