

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

(FORD, LIVINGSTON, LOGAN, McLEAN AND WOODFORD COUNTIES)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 - 06

EMERGENCY ORDER – COVID-19

This Order is effective from March 16, 2020 – April 10, 2020.

WHEREAS, the existence and spread of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in the declaration of a world-wide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to take steps to protect the health and safety of all employees, judges, attorneys and parties who have court hearings or other business within this Judicial Circuit while also balancing the rights of all said individuals and parties to litigation; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary to take quick action to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented circumstances existing at this time warrant this administrative action; and

WHEREAS, a large gathering of individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the Court desires to employ all reasonable and prudent measures to help protect the general public, litigants, attorneys and employees from the spread of COVID-19 creating this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, under Supreme Court Rule 21, has general administrative authority over the dockets of this Circuit and authority to enter Orders affecting the general scheduling of cases within this Circuit.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED all cases within the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, including the counties of Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean and Woodford, are hereby subject to the terms of this order as provided herein:

1. In all counties a judge will be available in person to hear all matters determined by the Court as emergencies.
2. Bail hearings, including motions to review bond, will be conducted daily as provided by Eleventh Judicial Circuit Rule 202.

3. Each party litigant shall receive an amended notice in the mail upon the rescheduling of a case as provided below. Litigants are directed to ensure that their mailing address is updated and current through the Circuit Clerk's office. Upon rescheduling, the Circuit Clerk websites for each county will also be updated with the new court dates.
4. **Criminal Division:**
 - a. All Traffic (TR), Criminal Misdemeanor (CM), Driving Under the Influence (DT), Conservation Violation (CV), Civil Law (CL) and Ordinance Violation (OV) cases, are continued to a date to be set by the Court and notice will be sent to the last known address of each defendant. Litigants are encouraged to also check on-line with their local Circuit Clerk's office for their rescheduled court dates. Motions involving Statutory Summary Suspension remain as set. All matters with individuals in custody shall remain as set.
 - b. Plea agreements for any of the above cases will be scheduled upon request.
 - c. Criminal Felony (CF) cases will remain as scheduled. Attorneys should immediately contact the office of the judge presiding in the case for scheduling specifics. Continuances may be given by phone at the discretion of the judge. Notice of the continued setting shall be provided to the parties and filed by the party requesting the continuance.
 - d. Jury trials will continue as scheduled for those defendants in custody or who have filed speedy trial demands.
5. **Juvenile Delinquency (JD):** hearings for those in detention and demands for trial will be conducted as scheduled.
6. **Juvenile Abuse and Neglect (JA):** all hearings shall be heard as scheduled.
7. **Civil – including Dissolution, Family, Law, Chancery, Miscellaneous Remedy, Small Claims and other civil cases not specified in this order:** Matters determined by the Court as emergencies will be heard in-person, by telephone conference or by videoconference, as available. Discovery in civil matters will continue as scheduled. All cases, including motions and pleadings, may continue to be filed in a manner consistent with Supreme Court rules. The Court encourages parties to file all cases electronically.

All other matters shall be postponed and rescheduled, provided that the judge presiding in the case has the discretion to conduct such hearings via

phone or videoconferencing in lieu of postponement/continuance and will advise attorneys and litigants accordingly.

Each judge and his/her staff shall be responsible for notifying all parties and counsel if the cases are being continued *or* if the cases are not being continued, the manner in which hearings will be held. If cases are being continued, each judge and his/her staff are responsible for rescheduling new hearing dates.

8. **Mental Health:** hearings shall be held as scheduled.
9. **Protective Orders:** all emergency and plenary orders of protection/protective orders/no contact orders will continue to be scheduled and heard.
10. **Mandatory Arbitration and cases set for any form of mediation:** all hearings shall be rescheduled. The Court shall send notice of any new hearing date.
11. **E-Filing:** All persons are encouraged to file all pleadings, petitions and motions via electronic filing through the office of the Circuit Clerk.
12. **Marriages:** No further marriages shall be scheduled from March 16 – April 12, 2020. Any marriage currently scheduled from March 16 – April 12 will proceed with only the couple being married and four (4) guests.
13. **Jurors:** Efforts have been made to reduce the need for jurors. In the event jurors are needed, they will be notified by the respective jury commissioner of their county with further instructions and the precautions which will be taken if they need to report. This applies to both petit and grand juries.
14. **Emergencies:** Matters determined by the Court as emergencies will be heard in-person, by telephone conference or by videoconference, as available.
15. **Other:** Non-essential gatherings, meetings and travel are cancelled.

All litigants and parties are to limit any family members or children who accompany them unless they are necessary for the court appearance. The Children's Waiting Room in the McLean County Law & Justice Center will be closed from March 16 – April 10, 2020 unless otherwise ordered.

The Circuit Clerk's offices may be contacted as follows:


Ford	217-379-9420	http://fordcounty.illinois.gov/circuit-clerk/
Livingston	815-844-2602	https://www.livingstoncounty-il.org/wordpress/county-services/circuit-clerk/
Logan	217-732-1163	https://www.logancountyil.gov/
McLean	309-888-5301	https://www.mcleancountyil.gov/80/Circuit-Clerk
Woodford	309-467-3312	www.woodford-county.org/154/Clerk-of-the-Circuit-Court

The Court may issue further Orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from this pandemic.

This Order shall be published to all Bar Associations within the Circuit, posted in the respective courthouses, on each Circuit Clerk's website and the Illinois Courts website (<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/>).

This Order is effective from March 16, 2020 – April 10, 2020.

Entered this 16th day of March, 2020


Mark A. Fellheimer, Chief Judge
Eleventh Judicial Circuit