

**CIRCUIT COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

CHRISTY W. SOLVERSON
Presiding Judge

Jackson County Courthouse
P.O. Box 388
Murphysboro, Illinois 62966-0388
618/687-7330 Fax: 618/ 687-7342

PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COURT REMAINS OPEN, TAKES PRECAUTIONS

As it performs essential functions, the Jackson County Courts remain open. Although the present risk level in our area remains low, health care professionals advise that we should all minimize contact to prevent the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. The Circuit Court intends to take the following reasonable measures:

Courthouse Environment: Building maintenance has been instructed that cleaning and disinfecting efforts should be intensified, especially with respect to surfaces commonly touched like railings, doorknobs, counters, bathrooms, etc.

Jury Service: A trial by jury is a constitutional right, and as such, a court cannot function without jurors. We are, however, reviewing ways to minimize the need for jurors to be summoned to the courthouse. All jury trials in civil cases and non-essential criminal cases in March and April will be continued.

If you are summoned for jury duty and are experiencing any symptoms of any kind, including flu-like symptoms, have fever or are coughing or sneezing, contact the Jackson County Jury Office at (618) 687-7341. Please provide your name and juror identification number. Your jury duty service will be deferred to a later date. DO NOT REPORT FOR JURY SERVICE IF YOU ARE SICK.

Individuals **should not** enter the Jackson County courthouse if they:

- A. Have traveled outside the United States and have been back in the United States less than 14 days; or
- B. Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been out of the country and has been back in the United States less than 14 days; or
- C. Have been, or reside with anyone who has been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for the coronavirus by any medical provider; or

- D. Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
- E. Have flu-like symptoms including fever, cough or shortness of breath.

If you are an attorney or litigant and have scheduled case, appointment, or are otherwise required to appear at the Jackson County courthouse in connection with a court case, but are unable to appear because of the above restrictions, please contact the Jackson County courthouse. The court will make reasonable accommodations and reschedule appearances and hearings as needed.

Certain cases in high volume dockets are being continued. The Circuit Clerk has been directed to send new notices to attorneys and litigants in those continued cases. Attorneys and litigants should also monitor cases scheduled in April and May on www.judici.com.

Attorneys or litigants who are unable to be present in courtrooms for civil and family matters (except Orders of Protections) may be able to appear remotely through the use of conference calls with the court. Please contact the Circuit Clerk's Office in Jackson County at (618) 687-7300 if you wish to schedule a conference call.

The Court will not conduct marriages, other than those which have previously been set. Requested Marriages and Civil Unions as of March 16, 2020 will be set after May 1, 2020.

Carbondale City Court: After consultation with the Carbondale City Attorney, ALL Carbondale City Court cases are continued. Notices of continued court dates and re-set dates will be mailed to litigants. If you have questions in this regard, please contact the Carbondale City Attorney's office at (618) 549-5302.

Murphysboro City Court: After consultation with the Murphysboro City Attorney, ALL Murphysboro City Court cases are continued. Notices of continued court dates and re-set dates will be mailed to litigants. If you have questions in this regard, please contact the Murphysboro City Attorney's office at (618) 687-2376.

Jackson County Courts will remain in constant contact with local emergency and health related agencies in order to continually evaluate the COVID-19 situation.

The current situation is one that presents challenges to the Court's normal operation. The Presiding Judge will continue to work with state and local officials to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary and communicate those changes to the general public, other branches of government and our judicial partners. We ask for

your cooperation and patience as we work to minimize the risk to those utilizing the services of the Court, while we continue to perform our essential duties and mandated functions.

All communication related to the functions of the Jackson County Courts should be directed to Jackson County Director of Court Operations, Allison Mileur at (618) 687-7345 or Presiding Judge Christy Solverson at (618) 687-7330.

