

Circuit Court of Illinois
First Judicial Circuit

Hon. Brad K. Bleyer
Presiding Circuit Judge

Williamson County Courthouse
200 West Jefferson, Suite 260
Marion, Illinois 62959
Telephone: (618-997-1301)

PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COURT REMAINS OPEN, TAKES PRECAUTIONS

As it performs essential functions, the Williamson 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 April and May 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 Williamson County Jury Office at (618) 997-1301 ext. 1268 or 1256. 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.

- The following individuals **should not** enter the Williamson County courthouse if they:
 - A. Have traveled outside the United States within the last 21 days; or
 - B. Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been outside the United States within the last 21 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 a scheduled case, appointment, or are otherwise required to appear at the Williamson County courthouse in connection with a court case, but are unable to appear because of the above restrictions, please contact the Williamson 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.

The current situation is one that presents challenges to the courts normal operating procedures. We will continue to monitor the situation and take every reasonable step to protect the health and safety of all attorneys, litigants, and employees. We appreciate the cooperation and patience of the public, as we work together to continue to safely operate our court system.