

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
POPE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS)
IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PURSUANT)
TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-1

WHEREAS, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to protect the general health and well-being of the general public, there has been declared both a state of emergency in Illinois and a national emergency in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the above declarations direct that persons take certain precautions in response to the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, precautions include that large gatherings of persons are to be avoided and group activities have been restricted in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 illness to the general public; and

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Presiding Judge of Pope County that the following cases set in the Pope County Circuit Court which have a scheduled court date are postponed:

- Civil matters including jury trials
- Traffic violations (TR, DT)
- Ordinance violations (OV, CL)
- Misdemeanor cases (CM)
- Probate (P)
- Family cases (F, D)
- Law magistrate (LM, L, CH)
- Juveniles cases (except as outlined below)
- Marriages
- Criminal reviews including traffic reviews
- Tax cases (TX)
- Pay or Appear court

Each party litigant shall receive a notice in the mail upon rescheduling. Litigants are directed to ensure that their mailing addresses are updated and current. Litigants are encouraged to monitor court dates and other case related matters at www.judici.com. Litigants may contact the Pope County Circuit Clerk with questions.

Emergency matters may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. Individuals shall contact the Pope County Circuit Clerk for the purpose of seeking approval from the Court to schedule on emergency matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

The following court proceedings will be held as scheduled, with appearances expected for all litigants, unless travel or health exemptions apply (see below):

- All matters with individuals in-custody, including bond review
- Criminal felony matters except probation and payment reviews
- Juvenile temporary custody hearings (shelter care)
- Juvenile detention hearings
- Petitions for Emergency Order of Protection/No Contact Stalking Orders (OP)
- Plenary Order of Protection/No Contact Stalking Orders
- Emergency hearings in family matters (D and F cases) scheduled with approval of the Court
- Any other emergency hearing as scheduled and approved by the Court

The following individuals shall not be permitted to enter the courthouse if they:

- Have traveled outside of the United States and have been back in the United States less than 14 days.
- 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.
- Have been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for the coronavirus by any medical provider; or
- Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
- Have flu-like symptoms including, fever, cough or shortness of breath.

Because of the restrictions and precautions on large gatherings of persons, the Court shall limit the number of non-litigants allowed to attend scheduled Court proceedings. The Court will accommodate individuals who have a constitutional or statutory right to attend Court proceedings.

If you are an attorney or litigant and have a scheduled case, appointment or are otherwise required to appear at the courthouse in connection with a court case, but are unable to appear because of the above restrictions, please contact the Pope County Circuit Clerk.

THIS ORDER is effective March 18, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: March 17, 2020

ENTERED: _____



JOSEPH M. LEBERMAN
Presiding Judge