

IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF ILLINOIS FOR THE COUNTIES OF ADAMS, BROWN, CASS, CALHOUN,
MASON, MENARD, PIKE, SCHUYLER

FILED

MAR 16 2020

Eric R. Hochwender
Clerk Circuit Court 8th Judicial Circuit
ILLINOIS, ADAMS CO.

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20-CA-5

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 litigants who have court hearings or other business within the 8th 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 currently 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 Eighth 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 for all counties within the Eighth Judicial Circuit, including Adams, Brown, Cass, Calhoun, Pike, Menard, Mason, and Schuyler are as follows:

Until further notice, the following Eighth Circuit court cases and court proceedings are postponed:

- Civil matters including Jury Trials
- Traffic cases (TR, DT) (except as outlined below)
- Ordinance violations (OV)
- Misdemeanor cases (CM)
- Probate (P)
- Small Claims (SC)
- Family Court (F,D)
- Child Support

- Law magistrate (LM, L, CH)
- Juvenile cases (except as outlined below)
- Marriages
- Criminal Felony probation and payment reviews

Each party litigant shall receive an amended notice in the mail upon rescheduling. Litigants are directed to ensure that their mailing addresses are updated and current. Litigants may contact the Circuit Clerk in the county where the case is pending with any questions.

Emergency matters may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. Individuals shall contact the Circuit Clerk in the county where the case is to be heard for purposes of scheduling emergency matters.

All persons are encouraged to file all pleadings, petitions and motions via electronic filing through the office of the Circuit Clerk.

As to all Civil matters, all pleadings and motions may continue to be filed in a manner consistent with Supreme Court Rules. Discovery will continue as scheduled. The presiding judge in the case has the discretion to conduct hearings via telephone or videoconferencing in lieu of postponement/continuance and, upon request, the Court will advise attorneys and litigants accordingly.

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 court
- Criminal felony matters except probation and payment reviews
- Juvenile temporary custody (shelter care)
- Juvenile detention hearings
- Petitions for Emergency Orders of Protection
- Hearings for Plenary Orders of Protection
- Emergency hearings on family matters (D and F cases) as scheduled by the Court
- Statutory Summary Suspension Hearings
- Mental Health Hearings
- Any other emergency hearing as scheduled by the Judge assigned

It is requested that individuals **should not** enter the courthouse if they:

- Have been in any of the following countries with the last 21 days: China, South Korea, Italy, Japan, Iran, or
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been in one of those countries listed above within the last 21 days; or

- 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

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 court case, but are unable to appear because of the above restrictions, please contact the Circuit Clerk in the county where the case is pending.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: March 16, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Frank McCartney", written over a horizontal line.

J. FRANK McCARTNEY, CHIEF JUDGE