



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE**  
Ninth Judicial Circuit  
State of Illinois

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Counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-03

REGARDING SCHEDULES AND PROPER  
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN THE NINTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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WHEREAS, on May 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court modified its Order of March 17, 2020 to allow each Judicial Circuit to hear regular cases as set forth by the Chief Judge of each circuit effective June 1, 2020, provided proper safety is employed to protect the public and court facility staff.

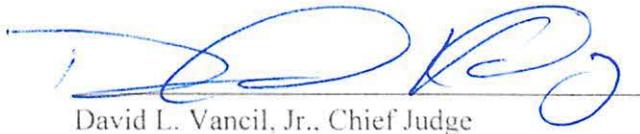
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- I. The Presiding/Administrative Judges of the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, & Warren) are authorized to set forth schedules and proper safety precautions to hear regular cases.
- II. In doing so the Presiding/Administrative Judges shall consider, but not be limited to, the following law related factors:
  - a. Deadlines which apply to a case or class of cases.
  - b. The length of time any applicable deadline has been suspended by order of the Supreme Court or the Circuit Court.
  - c. Limitations in court facilities or staffing.
  - d. Anticipated prejudice to any class of cases as a result of continued delay.
- III. In doing so, the Presiding/Administrative Judges shall also consider, but not be limited to, the following health related factors:
  - a. Each county shall, to the extent possible, allow for appropriate social distancing and attempt to reduce the number of persons appearing personally for court appearances.
  - b. Face masks shall be required for members of the public to enter the judicial facilities.
  - c. Social distancing reminders such as signs and tape lines shall be placed in public areas.

- d. NO member of the public with symptoms of COVID-19 or who has had close contact with a person known to have the virus shall be admitted.
  - e. Users of the judicial facilities are discouraged from bringing family and friends to the judicial facilities unless they are witnesses.
  - f. Applicable information from public health authorities.
- IV. The Presiding/Administrative Judge of each county is authorized to enact specific policy and procedures to address their individual judicial facility and case needs and shall continue to promote the use of remote hearings where appropriate.
- V. Presiding/Administrative Judges may continue jury trials until further order of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Pursuant to the May 20, 2020, Supreme Court Order such continuances shall be excluded from speedy trial computations contained in section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018)) and section 5-601 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/5-601 (West 2018)). The statutory time restrictions are also tolled when a trial is delayed when the court determines proper social distancing and facility limitations prevent the trial from proceeding safely provided the judge finds such limitations necessitated its delay and makes a record thereof.

This Order shall be effective June 1, 2020.

Dated this 26th day of May, 2020.

  
David L. Vancil, Jr., Chief Judge  
Ninth Judicial Circuit