

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF KANKAKEE
COUNTY OF IROQUOIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-19

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court has, pursuant to the Supreme Court's order of March 17, 2020, reduced its operations to essential activities;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's order of May 20, 2020, allows circuits to adopt their own plans for a resumption of court activity;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, effective June 1, 2020, the following procedures are in effect in the 21st Judicial Circuit:

1. **Return to Additional Court Activity.** The Court's previous Administrative Order 2020-17 is hereby repealed and replaced by the following provisions. Effective June 1, 2020, the Court will return to hearing all matters, with the exceptions and provisos set forth below.
2. **Masks/Face Coverings.** All persons in public areas of the courthouse, including attorneys, shall wear a mask or face covering. Persons involved in a court proceeding may be excused from wearing a mask while speaking on the record in a courtroom.
3. **Reduced Call Size.** In order to reduce the number of people in the building(s), the Court will, to the extent possible, reduce the number of cases slotted for each court call. This will in many instances require staggered court times. Attorneys are reminded that it is essential that they appear at the designated time in order to make this process work.
4. **Represented Parties Excused.** Unless ordered by the judge or directed by their attorney, parties are strongly encouraged not to attend routine court hearings. Attorneys should advise their clients not to attend court unless their attendance is strictly necessary given the nature of the hearing at issue.
5. **Additional Persons Discouraged.** Litigants are strongly discouraged from bringing any other person with them to the courthouse.
6. **Virtual Proceedings.** The Court will begin increased reliance on virtual proceedings and hearings. Parties should plan to appear as scheduled, to make a timely appearance, and should become familiar with the evolving protocols as set by the presiding judge.
7. **Bench Warrants and Defaults.** Judges may refrain, in appropriate circumstances, from the issuance of bench warrants or the entry of default judgments. Individual judges may, based on the nature of the hearing, the case, and their call, be more flexible in excusing the appearance of a party or defendant.
8. **Civil Jury Trials.** There will be no civil jury trials until November 3, 2020, at the earliest.

9. **Criminal Jury Trials.** All criminal jury trials in Kankakee County will be conducted in courtroom 309.
- a. Courtroom seating will be laid out differently to allow for personal distancing
 - b. Jurors will wear masks or face coverings, except when answering questions during voir dire.
 - c. Attorneys will wear mask or face coverings, except when speaking.
10. **Alternate Court Space.** The following will be utilized as alternate court space: Knights of Columbus Building, 187 S. Indiana, Kankakee, for jury selection in Kankakee County.
11. **Individual Judge/Division Order.** Attorneys and parties should be aware that individual judges may issue their own guidance on practices in certain courtrooms beginning June 1, 2020.

Dated: May 28, 2020



MICHAEL D. KRAMER
Chief Judge