

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-17

22nd Judicial Circuit
McHenry County, Illinois

FILED

NOV 16 2020

KATHERINE M. KEEFE
McHENRY CTY. CIR. CLK.

Whereas, the Corona Virus known as COVID-19 has caused the 22nd Judicial Circuit to modify its operations as stated in previous administrative orders; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court entered an Order on May 20, 2020 authorizing each circuit court to return to hearing court matters on June 1, 2020, whether in person or remotely, according to a schedule to be adopted for each county by the chief judge in each circuit; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court directed chief judges to consider *the Supreme Court Guidelines for Resuming Illinois Judicial Branch Operations During Covid 19* pandemic and the Chief Judge of the 22nd Judicial Circuit has considered said guidelines in drafting the *22nd Judicial Circuit McHenry County, Illinois Continuity of Operations Reestablishment Plan*; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court directed chief judges to consider certain factors detailed in its May 20, 2020 Order including applicable information from public health authorities and further recommended the use of remote hearings where appropriate; and

Whereas, Supreme Court Rule 241 addresses use of video conference technology in civil trials and evidentiary hearings for good cause shown and Supreme court Rule 45 allows participation in civil or criminal proceedings by telephone or video conference; and

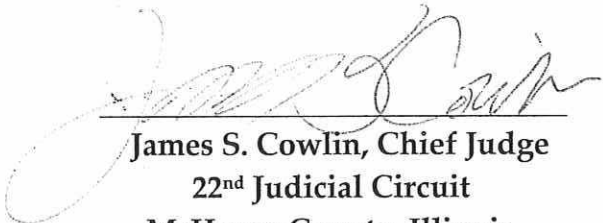
Whereas, the Chief Judge has considered the surge in corona virus cases, infections and hospitalizations as reported by the McHenry County and Illinois Departments of Public Health and finds, due to the resurgence of the corona virus (Covid-19) that good cause exists to further reduce the population at the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center. Further the Chief Judge finds it is reasonable and just to allow

petitioners to present petitions for emergency orders of protection, stalking no contact orders and civil no contact orders by remote video conferencing technology pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 241 and 45.

Therefore, It Is Hereby Ordered, effective immediately, that a petitioner seeking relief pursuant to a petition for order of protection, stalking no contact order, or civil no contact order may present the petition by remote access before a judge in the 22nd Judicial Circuit, McHenry County, Illinois.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Chief Judge.

Order entered by the Court this 16th day of November, 2020



James S. Cowlin, Chief Judge
22nd Judicial Circuit
McHenry County, Illinois