



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



November 17, 2020

22nd Judicial Circuit Suspends Jury Trials and Authorized Remote Emergency Orders of Protection

For Immediate Release

FROM: The Chambers of Chief Judge James S. Cowlin

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(Woodstock, IL) The 22nd Judicial Circuit continues to operate during the Coronavirus pandemic with safety measures in place for the protection of all people who enter the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center. However, due to the increased positivity rate, effective November 30, 2020, Chief Judge James S. Cowlin, has ordered that all cases scheduled for jury trial shall be continued to a future date to be set by the assigned judge. Judge Cowlin recognizes the importance of taking necessary action to protect potential jurors, case parties, members of the public, other judicial partners, court employees, and judges from the spread of Covid-19. All jury trials will be continued until further order of the Chief Judge.

Additionally, Turning Point of McHenry County, and the McHenry County Circuit Clerk's Office, are available to assist individuals who wish to seek petitions for emergency orders of protection, stalking no contact orders, and civil no contact orders by use of remote video conferencing technology. Emergency orders of protection, stalking no contact orders and civil no contact orders may be filed with the Court between the hours of 8:00am until 4:30pm, on days when the Judicial Center is open for business. Individuals seeking these orders may contact Turning Point of McHenry County at (815) 334-4624, and representatives will assist with completing the petition, aid in electronically filing of the documents, and provide direction on how to access a judge remotely.

If you need to come to the Judicial Center the following strategies must be used by all patrons to promote the health and well-being of all:

1. **BEFORE** coming to the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center, check your court date & time by accessing the McHenry County Circuit Clerk of the Court's website at:

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<https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/county-government/departments-a-i/circuit-clerk>.

2. **BEFORE** coming to the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center, if you are represented by an attorney, please speak with your attorney to determine if your attendance is absolutely necessary.
3. If you have a petty traffic offense, you may appear for court remotely via Zoom. On your court date, 30 minutes after the time listed on your ticket, simply log into Zoom using the following link: [https://zoom.us/my.mchenrycourtroom 102](https://zoom.us/my.mchenrycourtroom102).
4. Both the Civil and Family division are using Zoom and/or CourtCall to provide remote appearances. Standing Orders of Judges for procedures in their courtrooms are posted through at <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/county-government/courts/22nd-judicial-circuit/standing-orders>. Additional information about remote appearance can be found on the McHenry County Circuit Clerk's website at <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/county-government/departments-a-i/circuit-clerk/virtual-courtroom-information>. The Court encourages attorneys and litigants to take advantage of remote appearance opportunities.
5. If you have to come to the Judicial Center, arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled court time and leave the building promptly when finished.
6. Only people necessary for the proceeding should attend. Please leave family and friends at home.
7. Entry to the Judicial Center is controlled by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office. Bring only your keys, photo ID, cash/credit card and court papers into the building. Only cellphones needed for court related purposes are permitted to be brought in the Judicial Center. In order to speed entry into the Judicial Center, do not bring purses, backpacks, bags, electronics, etc. to the building. Also avoid wearing metal, jewelry items, large belt buckles, steel-toe shoes, money clips, watches, etc. Metal items trigger the magnetometer, slowing entry to the building.
8. Wearing masks or face coverings over your mouth and nose and practicing social distancing is required in all areas of the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center. Any person who is experiencing fever, chills, other symptoms, or has been exposed to COVID-19 or lives with a family member who has symptoms of COVID-19, should stay away from the Judicial Center. Notify your attorney, or if there is no attorney representation, notify the Circuit Clerk of the Court of your inability to appear and a new court date will be assigned. The phone number for the Circuit Clerk of the Court is 815-334-4190.

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This continues to be an unprecedented time for all of us including the judicial branch of government. However, through the collaborative efforts of many people, departments and agencies, the 22nd Judicial Circuit continues to provide access to justice during this time of crisis.

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