


IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

NOV 19 2020

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Sangamon County Administrative Order 2020-20  
Sangamon County Courthouse Procedures for COVID-19 Coronavirus Clerk of the  
Circuit Court

**WHEREAS**, The Sangamon County Courts will take all reasonable measures to minimize personal contact to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

**Whereas**, The Illinois Supreme Court has entered an Order in M.R. 30370 authorizing all courts to modify or suspend any deadlines and procedures for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the State of Illinois' Governor's state of emergency declaration.

**Whereas**, the Illinois Supreme Court has entered an Order in M.R. 30370 temporarily suspending the operation of Supreme Court Rules to the extent that any rule is contrary to the provisions of the Order entered in M.R. 30370.

**Whereas**, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 504 directs that the date set by the arresting officer, or the clerk of the circuit court, for an accused's first appearance in court shall be not less than 14 days, but within 60 days after the date of the arrest, whenever practicable, and directs for the court to hold a bench trial on the merits, if requested, on the date of the appearance.

**Whereas**, the size of Sangamon County requires the services of a number of law enforcement agencies resulting in large numbers of defendants being summoned to court for the same date and time for first appearances on traffic and conservation citations.

**Whereas**, the Sangamon County Courthouse has had, and continues to have, limited capacity to accommodate large groups of litigants that are summoned for court on the same date and time while still maintaining compliance with all mandated social distancing measures that are a necessary part of the current functionality of the Sangamon County Courthouse.

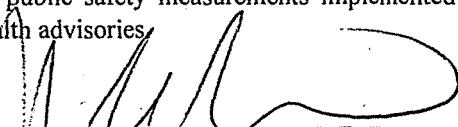
**Whereas**, the Sangamon County community is currently experiencing a second wave of COVID-19 cases that have resulted in mitigation efforts being enacted throughout the region.

**Whereas**, postponing the initial appearances that are currently scheduled for all traffic (TR) cases will eliminate mass amounts of citizens from entering the courthouse on a daily and weekly basis during a time when the spread of the coronavirus is accelerating at an infection rate, and corresponding hospitalization rate, that has surpassed all levels that have been reported since the beginning of the pandemic.

**Whereas**, the Sangamon County courts have previously initiated similar suspension measures for traffic appearances and still managed process the accumulation of the backlog of cases by developing and implementing unconventional responses to the caseload, such as the creation of court dockets on Saturdays as needed.

**WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that initial appearances for all Sangamon County traffic cases (TR) will be postponed and rescheduled for a date no sooner than 30 days from the initially scheduled appearance. The clerk and the State's Attorney's Office shall coordinate the issuance of a continuance notice that shall be sent to all impacted traffic court defendants with scheduled appearances beginning November 23, 2020 immediately upon the entry of this Administrative Order. This order shall remain in full force and effect until such time as a superseding order is entered that specifically terminates the effects of this Order. This order serves the purposes of keeping the courts available and accessible while ensuring compliance with all public safety measurements implemented in furtherance of policy directives from federal, state and local public health advisories.

ENTERED THIS 19th DAY OF November, 2020.

  
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JOHN M. MADONIA  
Presiding Judge