

2020-91

FILED
NOV 19 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Tiffany Busby
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

11/19/20 STANDING ORDER FOR JUDGE GOTT:
JUVENILE, FAMILY, TRAFFIC AND MISDEMEANOR
AND ALL OTHER ASSIGNED CASES

In accordance with the Illinois Supreme Court Order, M.R. 303070, entitled Illinois Courts Response to COVID19 Emergency, regarding court proceedings in the State of Illinois; and

In accordance with Administrative Order 2020-5-21 of the First Judicial Circuit entered by Chief Judge Williamson on May 21, 2020; and

In accordance with the new Supreme Court Rules regarding conducting virtual court hearings when possible and at the discretion of the Judge;

And in accordance with the latest mitigation measures set forth by the Governor of the State of Illinois, which limits the number of persons who can gather indoors;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, it is ordered and adjudged as follows:

1. Beginning **December 1, 2020** and until further order of the Court, all matters set before Judge Gott for FAMILY, TRAFFIC/CV, MISDEMEANOR or other ASSIGNED matters shall be held virtually via ZOOM, unless an in person hearing is specified and approved by the Judge.

2. For JUVENILE matters, ZOOM **MAY** be utilized for all hearings with the exception of Shelter Care hearings and Termination hearings which **must take place in person**. The Zoom Cloud App is free and may be downloaded onto a computer, tablet or smart phone. If you do not have any of those devices you will be provided with a phone number to participate via phone. Attorneys shall notify their clients if they plan to appear by Zoom.

2. All attorneys, caseworkers and parties who wish to participate in any court hearing must log or call into Zoom. Each person should appear by video if possible. There are many obstacles to using this communication platform for court purposes, but one of the primary concerns is identifying persons who speak so the court reporter can identify them correctly in the record. That task is easier if each person's face is visible. Persons without video capabilities may still participate in the meeting via phone. However, you **MUST** have VIDEO to TESTIFY before the court.

3. Each person attending the hearing should insure that his/her name appears prominently in the Zoom account so that each person can be identified more easily and added to the hearing. For social service case workers and supervisors, please list CW or the agency name next to your name.

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4. Please test your video and audio **BEFORE** the hearing. Video shall be kept stationary during the proceeding. If you must have around, during the court call, video should be turned off and may be turned back on when your case is called before the court.

5. Please join the hearing on time. Once the hearing starts it may be difficult to add participants to the hearing. You will be placed in a Waiting Room until the court is ready to call your case.

6. Each person should mute the microphone on your Zoom app to eliminate background noise until it is your turn to speak, then you may unmute yourself. Persons dialing in by phone must **press *6 to mute/unmute**.

7. Only one person may talk at a time. Should you desire to speak during the hearing, please raise your hand so that you may be called on by the Court. If Parties need to speak to their attorney during the proceeding a private Chat or Breakroom Session may be initiated. The case will be recessed until the attorney and client are ready to proceed.

8. Pursuant to 720 ILCS 5/14-2, it is illegal for anyone to record a conversation unless all parties agree. I do not agree to be recorded before, during or after the hearing. The only official record of this hearing is that which is being made by the court reporter.

9. All persons should dress appropriately for video court and be careful to insure that their profile screen and background are appropriate and respectful to the court. If you could not wear it in a courthouse, then do not wear it on Video Court. Further, persons **SHALL NOT** drive, smoke, take photos, or otherwise act inappropriately during the Zoom court or they will be removed from the proceeding and be subject to contempt of court.

10. For all public proceedings, such as Family, Traffic and Misdemeanor court, the court will admit all persons requesting entrance into the Zoom Court proceeding, since it is open to the public. The court does not livestream the court proceeding.

11. For Juveniles or other confidential matters, only authorized individuals should attend the Zoom hearing. Juvenile proceedings are confidential and every effort should be made to prevent other persons from seeing or hearing any portion of the hearing. If a person would not be admitted to a courtroom for a hearing in your case, they cannot see or hear any part of the Zoom hearing. That means you need to find a private location for this hearing. The Court takes this very seriously. A violation of this rule could result in contempt proceedings being instituted against the offending party.

12. The Clerk shall send notice to all Attorneys and/or parties if no attorney represents them, notifying them that cases will be heard via ZOOM. Attorneys should have email addresses on file. Defendants and other parties are encouraged to provide email addresses to the Clerk for service of Notices to reduce postage costs.

13. Any party or Attorney may request a hearing be scheduled take place **IN PERSON**,

by orally or in writing requesting the same and specifying the circumstances which necessitate an in person hearing as opposed to a Zoom hearing (ie. technical difficulties, no video capability and testimony is required, etc.).

14. MASKS are required for any IN PERSON hearings for all attorneys, parties, witnesses and others present in the Courtroom. The Court shall limit the number of persons in the courtroom in order to maintain social distancing guidelines recommended by the Governor, IDPH and the CDC whenever possible. As such, the court prefers that ONLY necessary parties and witnesses be present at courthouse and in the courtroom in order to maximize room for those who are required to appear before the court.

15. The Zoom Court Information for Judge Gott shall remain the same for all hearings and is set forth below:

Meeting ID: 923 4788 2440

Meeting Password: 913516

TO DIAL IN VIA PHONE CALL: 1-312-626-9799


Judge Gott's video courtroom may also be accessed online at the Union County Circuit Clerk website at: <https://www.unioncountycircuitclerkil.net/video-court> Or the Jackson County Circuit Clerk Website: <https://circuitclerk.co.jackson.il.us/video-court/>

Simply click on Judge Gott's Courtroom and you will be linked to join her virtual court.

16. This Order may be amended or modified as needed as additional best practices are identified and as the court continues to monitor the COVID19 outbreak in Southern Illinois.

SO ORDERED

ENTER: NOVEMBER 19, 2020


AMANDA BYASSEE GOTT
CIRCUIT JUDGE