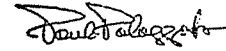


**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**FILED**

NOV 30 2020 1

Sangamon County Administrative Order 2020-64  
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 Sangamon County Courts have entered Administrative Orders 2020-13 and 2020-16 directly impacting the operation of the jury trial system.

**Whereas**, the provisions of these Administrative Orders are subject to further review and modification as necessary by further order of the court.

**Whereas**, Administrative Order 2020-13, prioritized jury trials in favor of criminal defendants subjected to pre-trial incarceration at the time of trial with said priority expressly scheduled to terminate after the conclusion of the Thanksgiving holiday in 2020.

**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. As the Thanksgiving holiday concludes, the infection rate from the coronavirus and the associated hospitalization from complications experienced from the disease COVID-19 are being reported to be at or near the highest levels since the pandemic began. Medical experts also predict that gatherings from Thanksgiving celebrations will contribute to even higher rates of contamination in the following weeks thereby making it unsafe to summon more than one group of jurors to the courthouse for selection each week.

**Whereas**, the Sangamon County Jail continues to operate at a level that exceeds normal capacity as the Thanksgiving holiday concludes thereby maintaining a need to provide priority to these cases for future jury dockets.

**Whereas**, Administrative Order 2020-16 suspended all jury trials except for cases involving criminal defendants subjected to pre-trial incarceration, and the order established a process for authorizing jury selection to proceed on a case-by-case and week-by-week basis for those defendants so situated.

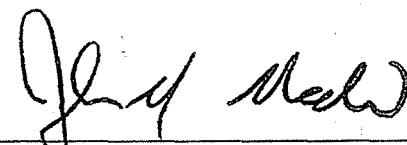
**Whereas**, civil cases with jury demands have been suspended for the majority of 2020 thereby creating an unavoidable backlog in the resolution of such cases.

**WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that the provisions related to the suspension of jury trials as set forth in A.O 2020-16 are hereby extended through the end of the jury docket in 2020. Any jury trials initiated this year will be limited to criminally incarcerated defendants; and,

Beginning in 2021, civil cases may be docketed for jury trial upon the approval of the judge to which the case is assigned; and,

The limitation of one jury trial per week is herein extended until further order of the court as only one such trial can be safely conducted each week at the Sangamon County Courthouse. So long as this limitation is in effect, the process for authorizing a case to proceed to jury selection over other cases ready for trial shall be determined by the presiding judge for Sangamon County as set forth in A.O. 2020-13 with additional consideration to be given to any civil cases that are also docketed and ready for trial. Factors to analyze for civil cases include, but are not limited to: the age of the case, the age and health of the parties and material witnesses, the number of experts, the disruption of any travel for witnesses involved in a continuance, the amount of damages at risk, and other relevant factors raised by the parties or the court.

ENTERED THIS 30th DAY OF November, 2020.

  
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JOHN M. MADONIA  
Presiding Judge