



TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JUDICIAL OFFICE • KENDALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

November 23, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Additional Information contact:

Marci Vose

Court Administrator, 23rd Circuit

Kendall County Courthouse

mvose@co.kendall.il.us

630-553-4208

**23rd CIRCUIT COURTS REMAIN OPEN
PAUSE JURY TRIALS**

Due to an increase in reported COVID-19 cases in DeKalb and Kendall Counties, the 23rd Judicial Circuit announced that it is implementing a pause in jury trials beginning Monday, November 23rd, and continuing until February 1, 2021. Chief Judge Robert Pilmer said, “This action is taken after consulting with the judges in both counties, and is taken as a precaution. So far, we have been able to minimize the spread of the virus within our courthouses, but we want to ensure the continued safety and well-being of the citizens of both counties, as well as all courthouse personnel and employees.”

Chief Judge Pilmer advises that the courts will not be reducing any other court operations as was done earlier in the year. Since March, the judges have made extensive use of remote proceedings, and will further increase their use of such technology in order to reduce the number of persons who must enter courthouses.

Information about how to attend court remotely in each county can be found on the Circuit Clerk’s website for each county, as well as the Judiciary’s website. Litigants and attorneys should continue to familiarize themselves with the process for remote appearances and use remote appearances whenever necessary in order to minimize the possibility of exposure to the virus.

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GENERAL ORDER 20 - 22**

*In re Temporary COVID-19
Mitigation Efforts*

FILED
NOV 20 2020
ROBYN INGELINSON
CIRCUIT CLERK KENDALL CO.

WHEREAS, the Circuit Courts in DeKalb and Kendall Counties, pursuant to the Supreme Court's order of March 17, 2020 in M.R. 30370 previously reduced its operations to essential activities; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's order of May 20, 2020 in M.R. 30370 allows Circuits to adopt their own plans for a resumption of court activity, and this Circuit did so pursuant to General Order 20 - 18 authorizing the Presiding Judge in each County to issue an Administrative Order for the resumption of court activity in each County, which was done; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's order of May 20, 2020 in M.R. 30370 implicitly allows Circuits to step back from their reopening plans as dictated by local conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the Orders of the Illinois Supreme Court and pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and (c), and the inherent authority of the Court;

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Effective November 23, 2020 and continuing until February 1, 2021, no jury trials may proceed in the 23rd Judicial Circuit. Matters set for final jury setting shall remain on those dates, but shall not proceed to trial. Counsel for the parties may, upon proper notice and motion, seek to have new jury trial dates set after February 1, 2021. Pursuant

to Supreme Court order, in criminal trials the period of delay shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for purpose of 725 ILCS 5/103-5.

2. The courts will operate with increased reliance on remote proceedings and hearings pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 45 and 241. Attorneys and parties who are offered the opportunity to appear remotely are strongly encouraged to do so. Those participating remotely should plan to appear timely as scheduled and be familiar with the protocols for remote appearances.

For DeKalb County: <http://circuitclerk.org/virtual-court-tips.html#livestream>

For Kendall County: <https://www.co.kendall.il.us/departments/judiciary/remote-hearings>

3. Attorneys and parties should be aware that individual judges may issue their own guidance on practices in certain courtrooms, which may include only remote appearances, or otherwise limit in-person appearances.
4. Judges may refrain, in appropriate circumstances, from the issuance of bench warrants or the entry of default judgments. Individual judges may, based upon the nature of the hearing, the case, and their call, be more flexible in excusing the appearance of a party or defendant.
5. In order to reduce the number of persons in the courthouses, the courts will, to the extent possible, reduce the number of cases slotted for each court call. This will in many instances require staggered court times. Attorneys are reminded that it is essential that they appear at the designated time in order to make this process work.
6. Unless ordered by the judge or directed by their attorney, parties in civil and family cases are strongly encouraged not to attend routine court hearings. Attorneys should advise their clients not to attend court unless their attendance is strictly necessary given the

nature of the hearing at issue. In criminal cases, judges should discuss with the attorneys whether the defendant's presence might be excused.

7. Litigants are strongly discouraged from bringing any other person with them to the courthouse.

THIS ORDER shall be effective immediately, and shall supercede any prior General Order or Administrative Order of either county which is in conflict with the provisions of this Order.

Enter: November 20, 2020.



Hon. Robert P. Pilmer
CHIEF JUDGE