

IN THE 23RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GENERAL ORDER 22-02
effective January 11, 2022

FILED

JAN 07 2022

Lori Grubbs
Clerk of the Circuit Court
DeKalb County, Illinois

WHEREAS, in light of the rate of infection of the Coronavirus variants continuing to increase, and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public, Judges and Circuit Court employees, and after consultation with the offices of the DeKalb County State's Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Circuit Clerk, County Administrator, County Health Department, and pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 12(b) and the Court's inherent authority; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court's Order M.R. 30370 of May 20, 2020 allowing circuits to adopt their own plans for resumption of court activity;

IT IS THEREBY ORDERED, that effective January 11, 2022 through February 27, 2022 the following procedures are in effect in the DeKalb County Courthouse:

- 1) **REMOTE HEARING**: All judges shall conduct non-evidentiary hearings remotely. Evidentiary hearings shall be limited to plenary hearings for orders of protection, criminal trials that cannot otherwise be continued, and emergency matters as permitted or allowed by the court and defined by local rule.

A "remote hearing" is one that is conducted either telephonically or via zoom platform. A "remote hearing" includes, but is not limited to, status dates, pleas, motion hearings, and bench trials.

Each judge may exercise his or her discretion in establishing additional parameters for remote hearings.

- 2) **CRIMINAL JURY TRIAL**: All Criminal jury trials that are mandated by law to proceed from January 11, 2022 to February 28, 2022 shall be held in Courtroom 100.
- 3) **CIVIL JURY TRIALS**: All Civil jury trials will proceed after February 28, 2022. The scheduling and rescheduling of civil jury trials will be handled by the judge assigned to the case.
- 4) **BOND CALL/ORDERS OF PROTECTION/EXPUNGEMENTS**: Bond call will continue to be heard remotely using the Zoom platform. The Court will be open for in-person self-represented litigants for emergency orders of protection, stalking/no contact, civil no

contact orders and plenary orders of protection hearings. Expungements shall remain as a remote proceeding.

- 5) The court will also be open for individuals who appear at the courthouse to pay a fine, file a pleading or other document, and who are otherwise seeking to engage in court related business including court ordered drug testing. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, in the event an individual is seeking to appear in person in a given courtroom for a non evidentiary hearing as that term is defined above, court security or a Deputy Circuit Clerk shall advise that individual to either return to his or her vehicle and participate via zoom platform or security and/or the Deputy clerk shall obtain from the judge presiding in the applicable courtroom a new date subsequent to the expiration of this order.
- 6) **MASK/FACE COVERINGS:** All persons in public areas of the courthouse, including courtrooms, must wear a mask/face covering unless the judge presiding gives permission to remove the mask/face covering in order to participate in court proceedings. In the event permission is given, distancing shall remain at a minimum of 12 feet during the time the individual is unmasked.
- 7) **ADDITIONAL PERSONS DISCOURAGED:** : In the event that an in-person appearance is permitted by the Judge or an individual visits the courthouse for court business that individual is limited to one additional person to accompany him or her. The aforesaid limitation does not apply to members of the same household.
- 8) **BENCH WARRANTS AND DEFAULTS:** Judges retain the discretion to issue or not issue bench warrants and to enter default judgments.
- 9) **SPECIALTY COURTS:** Treatment Court will be held remotely. The judge presiding retains discretion to order an in-court appearance in conformity with this order.
- 10) **WEDDINGS:** Weddings will be stayed until February 28, 2022.
- 11) **OTHER MATTERS:** Non-essential gatherings, meetings, and programs that are scheduled for the DeKalb County Courthouse shall only be permitted with the express written consent of the Chief Judge and Sheriff of DeKalb County.

The Court may modify the duration of this order dependent upon the status of the Coronavirus and may also issue further orders that seek to protect the health, safety and welfare of those who work in and frequent the Dekalb County Courthouse.

Entered this 7th day of January 2022, with an effective date of January 11, 2022.

Bradley J. Waller, Chief Judge 23rd Judicial Circuit Court


