



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
Ninth Judicial Circuit
State of Illinois

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Counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren

PRESS RELEASE

Date of Release: May 26, 2020

Contact Person: Sandra R. Redington, Trial Court Admin.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of the Chief Judge

Ninth Judicial Circuit

Macomb, Illinois

On May 26, 2020, Chief Judge Vancil entered an administrative order authorizing the hearing of all matters in the Ninth Judicial Circuit which includes the counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, and Warren. The administrative order is effective June 1, 2020 and allows the Presiding/Administrative Judge of each county to set forth schedules and proper safety precautions specific to each county and judicial facility.

The order requires each county, to the extent possible, to allow for appropriate social distancing and attempt to reduce the number of persons appearing personally for court appearances. Face masks will be required for members of the public to enter the judicial facilities. Social distancing reminders such as signs and tape lines will be placed in public areas. NO member of the public with symptoms of COVID-19 or who has had close contact with a person known to have the virus will be admitted. Users of the judicial facilities are discouraged from bringing family and friends to the judicial facilities unless they are witnesses.

The Presiding/Administrative judge of each county is authorized to enact specific policies and procedures to address their individual judicial facility and case needs.



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Counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-03

REGARDING SCHEDULES AND PROPER
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN THE NINTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court modified its Order of March 17, 2020 to allow each Judicial Circuit to hear regular cases as set forth by the Chief Judge of each circuit effective June 1, 2020, provided proper safety is employed to protect the public and court facility staff.

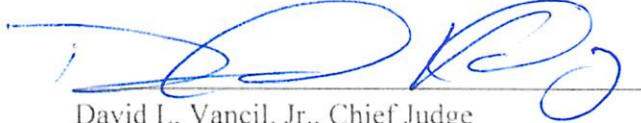
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- I. The Presiding/Administrative Judges of the 9th Judicial Circuit (Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, & Warren) are authorized to set forth schedules and proper safety precautions to hear regular cases.
- II. In doing so the Presiding/Administrative Judges shall consider, but not be limited to, the following law related factors:
 - a. Deadlines which apply to a case or class of cases.
 - b. The length of time any applicable deadline has been suspended by order of the Supreme Court or the Circuit Court.
 - c. Limitations in court facilities or staffing.
 - d. Anticipated prejudice to any class of cases as a result of continued delay.
- III. In doing so, the Presiding/Administrative Judges shall also consider, but not be limited to, the following health related factors:
 - a. Each county shall, to the extent possible, allow for appropriate social distancing and attempt to reduce the number of persons appearing personally for court appearances.
 - b. Face masks shall be required for members of the public to enter the judicial facilities.
 - c. Social distancing reminders such as signs and tape lines shall be placed in public areas.

- d. NO member of the public with symptoms of COVID-19 or who has had close contact with a person known to have the virus shall be admitted.
 - e. Users of the judicial facilities are discouraged from bringing family and friends to the judicial facilities unless they are witnesses.
 - f. Applicable information from public health authorities.
- IV. The Presiding/Administrative Judge of each county is authorized to enact specific policy and procedures to address their individual judicial facility and case needs and shall continue to promote the use of remote hearings where appropriate.
- V. Presiding/Administrative Judges may continue jury trials until further order of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Pursuant to the May 20, 2020, Supreme Court Order such continuances shall be excluded from speedy trial computations contained in section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018)) and section 5-601 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/5-601 (West 2018)). The statutory time restrictions are also tolled when a trial is delayed when the court determines proper social distancing and facility limitations prevent the trial from proceeding safely provided the judge finds such limitations necessitated its delay and makes a record thereof.

This Order shall be effective June 1, 2020.

Dated this 26th day of May, 2020.


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Ninth Judicial Circuit



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PRESS RELEASE

Date of Release: March 16, 2020

Contact Person: Sandra R. Redington, Trial Court Admin.

Telephone: 309/837-9278

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of the Chief Judge

Ninth Judicial Circuit

Macomb, Illinois

**NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS COURTS REMAIN OPEN
WITH PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING COVID-19**

Due to the global coronavirus pandemic, the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court will reduce operations in order to minimize personal contact and deter the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The attached Administrative Order is consistent with Supreme Court recommendations and shall remain in effect until further order of the court.

Additionally, the courts within the Ninth Judicial Circuit will be taking the following precautions:

Court Facilities and Employees:

- All employees have been encouraged to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; stay home when ill or if having had contact with anyone who has the COVID-19 coronavirus; avoid close contact with persons who are sick; and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Custodial staff are conducting regular cleaning and disinfection of court facilities with emphasis on public areas which have frequent contact (doorknobs, restroom and elevator areas, etc.).

Attorneys, Litigants and Parties to a Case

- If you have a case scheduled and you begin to feel ill, you should consider contacting the opposing party or attorney to explore an agreed continuance.
- If there is no agreement, contact the circuit clerk's office to advise that you are unable to attend court. Judges will consider on a case-by-case basis whether the continuance of a court date is in order. Providing medical documentation of your condition will be of assistance.

Jury Service

- If you are summoned for jury service and are experiencing any symptoms of illness, please contact the Circuit Clerk of your county and advise them of the situation for further instruction before coming in person to the court facilities.

General Public

- The court facilities in the Ninth Circuit remain open. However, if you are experiencing any acute respiratory illness symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, headaches), flu-like symptoms, fever, coughing or sneezing, please do not come to the court facilities. If you do come to the court facility with such symptoms, the court may refuse you access to the court facilities.

Adult and Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Detention, Court Services

- All probation, detention and court services facilities remain open.
- A plan has been developed to limit contact with persons who are exhibiting symptoms of illness.
- Probationers should contact their probation officer via telephone and follow their directions. Probationers should not appear at the probation office.

This situation presents challenges to the Court's normal operating procedures. The Ninth Circuit continues to examine procedures to preserve the public health while continuing to perform the function of an operational court system. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated.



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Counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-01

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS
IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
PURSUANT TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to protect the general health and well-being of the general public, there has been declared both a state of emergency in Illinois and a national emergency in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the above declarations direct that persons take certain precautions in response to global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, precautions include that large gatherings of persons are to be avoided and group activities have been restricted in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 illness to the general public; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the administrative authority given to the Chief Circuit Judge pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21 and the court's inherent authority.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois that the following cases set in the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court which have a scheduled court date are **postponed**:

- Civil matters, including jury trials
- Traffic violations (TR, DT)
- Ordinance violations (OV, CL)
- Misdemeanor cases (CM)
- Probate (P)
- Small Claims (SC)
- Family Cases (F,D)
- Law magistrate (LM, L, CH)
- Juvenile Cases (except as outlined below)
- Marriages
- Criminal and Traffic Reviews and Status Hearings
- Tax cases (TX)

Each party litigant shall receive a notice in the mail upon rescheduling. Litigants are directed to ensure that their mailing addresses are updated and current. Litigants may contact the Circuit Clerk in the county of the pending case with any questions.

Emergency matters may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. Individuals shall contact the Circuit Clerk in the county where the case is to be heard for the purpose of seeking approval from the Court to schedule an emergency matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

The following court proceedings will be held as scheduled, with appearances expected for all litigants, unless travel or health exemptions apply (see below):

- All matters with individuals in-custody, including bond review
- Criminal felony matters except probation and payment reviews
- Juvenile temporary custody hearings (shelter care)
- Juvenile detention hearings
- Petitions for Emergency Order of Protection/No Contact Stalking Orders (OP)
- Plenary Order of Protection/No Contact Stalking Orders
- Emergency hearings in family matters (D and F cases) scheduled with approval of the Court
- Any other emergency hearing as scheduled and approved by the Court


It is requested that individuals **should not** enter the courthouse if they:

- Have been in any of the following countries within the last 21 days: China, South Korea, Italy, Japan, Iran, or
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been in one of those countries listed above within the last 21 days; or
- Have been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for the coronavirus by any medical provider; or
- Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
- Have flu-like symptoms including, fever, cough or shortness of breath

If you are an attorney or litigant and have a scheduled case, appointment or are otherwise required to appear at the courthouse in connection with a court case, but are unable to appear because of the above restrictions, please contact the Circuit Clerk in the county where the case is pending.

This Order shall be effective March 17, 2020, and until further order of this Court.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2020.



David L. Vancil, Jr., Chief Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit



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Counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren

AMENDED

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-02

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS
IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PURSUANT
TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC/IMPACT ON TRIALS

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered Order M.R. 30370, In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency/Impact on Trials. Said Order states "In the exercise of the general administrative and supervisory authority over the courts of Illinois conferred on this Court pursuant to Article VI, Section 16 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 (Ill.Const.1970, art. VI, sect. 16), and in view of the state of emergency that has been declared by the Governor of the State of Illinois in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus;"

WHEREAS, said order directs that "the Chief Judges of each circuit may continue trials for the next 60 days and until further order" of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

WHEREAS, said order further directs that "In the case of criminal proceedings, any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for purposes of section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018))."

WHEREAS, with the March 20, 2020 entry of Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370 referred to hereinabove, an Administrative Order for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is necessary and required.

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit specifically finds that the interests of justice also requires continuance of these matters due to state and nationally recognized public health dangers of summoning a jury and/or conducting trials and that the ordering of these continuances is in the best interest of the public, including parties, witnesses, and all court personnel in order to follow the emergency declarations of our state and national authorities.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois that all matters set for trial in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois are continued for a period of 60 days from the entry of M.R. 30370 issued by the Supreme Court of Illinois dated March 20, 2020.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that all criminal matters set for trial in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois are continued for a period of 60 days from the entry of M.R. 30370 issued by the Supreme Court of Illinois dated March 20, 2020. Any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for the purposes of section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018)).

This Order is effective March 20, 2020.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David L. Vancil, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

David L. Vancil, Jr., Chief Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit



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Counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren

2nd AMENDED

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-02

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS
IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PURSUANT
TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC/IMPACT ON TRIALS
AND AMENDMENT OF PREVIOUS AMENDED
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-02

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered Order M.R. 30370, In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency/Impact on Trials. Said Order states "In the exercise of the general administrative and supervisory authority over the courts of Illinois conferred on this Court pursuant to Article VI, Section 16 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 (Ill.Const.1970, art. VI, sect. 16), and in view of the state of emergency that has been declared by the Governor of the State of Illinois in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus;"

WHEREAS, said order resulted in the entry of Amended Administrative Order No. 2020-02 of the Ninth Judicial Circuit entered on March 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Illinois issued Order M.R. 30370 on April 3, 2020 which amends its previous order of March 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, said order of April 3, 2020 directs that "the Chief Judges of each circuit may continue trials until further order of this Court"; and

WHEREAS, said order further directs that "In the case of criminal proceedings, any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for purposes of section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018))"; and

WHEREAS, said order directs that "In the case of juvenile delinquency proceedings, any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the juvenile for purposes of section 5-601 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/5-601 (West 2018))"; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit specifically finds that the interests of justice also requires continuance of these matters due to state and nationally recognized public health dangers of summoning a jury and/or conducting trials and that the ordering of these continuances is in the best interest of the public, including parties, witnesses, and all court personnel in order to follow the emergency declarations of our state and national authorities.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois that this order amends and supercedes Amended Administrative Order No. 2020-02 of the Ninth Judicial Circuit entered on March 25, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois that all matters set for trial in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois are continued until further order of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all criminal matters set for trial in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Illinois are continued until further order of the Supreme Court of Illinois and that any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for purposes of section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018)).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in juvenile delinquency proceedings, any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the juvenile for purposes of section 5-601 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/5-601 (West 2018)).

This Order is effective April 6, 2020.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2020.



David L. Vancil, Jr., Chief Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit