

STATE OF ILLINOIS
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED

NOV 13 2020

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT #59
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-M-29
Madison and Bond Counties

Third Judicial Circuit COVID-19 Resurgence Response

Effective November 16, 2020, and pursuant to, and under the authority granted by, Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370, *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency*, only essential court matters and proceedings shall be heard in the Third Judicial Circuit in order to protect the health and safety of court patrons, staff, judges and the general public.

WHEREAS, for those reasons mentioned in prior Third Circuit Administrative Orders previously entered, and reference therein to various Orders of the Illinois Supreme Court (M.R. 30370), all dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, given the recent record number of COVID-19 infections and its rapid resurgence within Madison County; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to update prior Administrative Orders, taking access to justice and public safety into account and upon considering guidance received from, but not limited to, the Illinois Supreme Court's May 20, 2020 Order M.R. 30370, *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency*, effective June 1, 2020;

WHEREFORE, the undersigned, as Chief Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit, hereby orders as follows:

All non-essential court matters and proceedings shall be continued or, where possible, conducted remotely via telephone, Zoom or other electronic means. **This order remains in effect through December 4, 2020, and may be reviewed or modified as circumstances require.**

This Order applies to the Courts within the Third Judicial Circuit. The Resident Circuit Judge of Bond County is authorized to issue local orders, rules or protocols, consistent herewith, and for the limited purpose of implementing the provisions of this order in that County.

Essential court proceedings include the following:

1. All matters with individuals in custody, including bond hearings;

2. Summary suspension hearings, absent an agreed continuance; SSS hearings will be conducted exclusively by Zoom;
3. Emergency Petitions for Orders of Protection, Stalking No Contact Orders, Civil No Contact Orders, and Firearm Surrender Orders;
4. Detention hearings for detained juveniles;
5. Shelter Care and other essential hearings for juveniles who may have been abused or neglected;
6. Mental Health hearings for involuntary commitment or treatment;
7. Emergency hearings in family matters scheduled only with the approval of the Court; and
8. Any other emergency hearing scheduled and approved by the court.

Individuals shall be denied entry to the courthouse if they:

1. Have travelled, within the last 21 days, to any country designated by the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as high risk locations for transmission of COVID-19; or
2. Reside with or have close contact with anyone who has travelled to any country designated by the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as high risk locations for transmission of COVID-19; or
3. Have been directed to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor at home by a health department or any medical provider; or
4. Reside with or have close contact with anyone who has been directed to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor at home by any medical provider or health department; or
5. Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19; or
6. Have flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath; or
7. Are awaiting a COVID test result.

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, you should contact the Circuit Clerk where the case is pending or visit their website.

The court will continue to conduct hearings on only essential or time sensitive matters if the presentment of a motion or petition cannot be conducted remotely via telephone, Zoom or other electronic means. In such an event, at these proceedings, parties are required to remain seated at counsel table and maintain a safe distance of at least six (6) feet between themselves, other counsel and courtroom personnel at all times.

• **Criminal Felony Matters.** All criminal felony dockets, hearings and non-essential matters are hereby continued pursuant to this order. Attorneys are NOT to appear for trial dockets. Matters set within this time frame will be rescheduled. All jury

and non-jury trials in civil, criminal and traffic divisions remain suspended during this period including those scheduled at the Alton Courthouse facility. Any delay resulting from this 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;

- **Grand Jury.** Grand Jury proceedings scheduled during this period are hereby cancelled.

- **Courtroom 103 and Alton Dockets.** All such matters are suspended during this period. Judge Alfeld is available to conduct essential matters associated with his dockets remotely. Contact Judge Alfeld by email at pbalfeld@co.madison.il.us or by telephone at (618) 296-4510 to schedule a Zoom or teleconference hearing. For DVAC, Judge Slemer is available to conduct essential matters associated with this docket remotely. Contact Judge Slemer by email at rrslemer@co.madison.il.us or by telephone at (618) 296-4593 to schedule a Zoom or teleconference hearing.

- **Civil Division (L, LM, AR, and MR cases).** These cases will continue to proceed remotely as scheduled and arranged by the assigned judge.

- **All Plenary Orders of Protection, Emergency Orders of Protection, and Plenary and Emergency Civil Stalking No Contact Orders** are hereby extended for thirty (30) days. A party may seek emergency relief from such Orders only upon filing a motion with the assigned judge. Such hearings will be heard by the assigned judge at his or her discretion and conducted remotely via telephone (or video in limited circumstances) or by other electronic means.

- **Weddings.** No wedding or civil union ceremonies will be conducted during this period.

- **Juvenile Proceedings.** For all non-essential juvenile proceedings, contact Judge Mengarelli by email at mjmengarelli@co.madison.il.us or by telephone at (618) 296-4350 to schedule a Zoom or teleconference hearing. All matters currently conducted in a remote manner will continue to be handled in such a manner.

- **Arbitration.** Arbitration matters will continue to proceed remotely.

- **Foreclosure Mediation.** Intake, Pre-mediation and Mediation conferences will continue to be performed by remote means and are scheduled by Jennifer Dunham at the Madison County Foreclosure Mediation Center, 101 East Edwardsville Road, Suite 203 Wood River, IL 62095. Phone: (618) 296-4760. Email: jedunham@co.madison.il.us

- **Kid's Corner Supervised Parenting Time and Parenting Exchanges.** Supervised parenting time and exchanges are suspended for this period.

• **Children First Parenting Program.** The program may be completed online during this period. To register for the Children First Parenting Education Program, call (618) 251-6214 between 9:00 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday.

• **Law Library/Self-Help Center.** The Law Library/Self Help Center is hereby closed to the public for this period. In Madison County, remote appointments may be scheduled with the law librarian at (618) 296-4900 and by email at: lawlibrary@co.madison.il.us.

Visit our website to find additional information or assistance:


https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/circuit_court/law_library/index.php.

• **E-Filing.** E-Filing requirements for self-represented litigants only is hereby suspended during this period as access to the clerk's E-Filing terminals for self-represented litigants will not be available at this time. Such persons may file paper pleadings with the Circuit Clerk.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is to notify all parties of record by posting on its website and emailing attorneys and by other appropriate means.

It is further ordered that this order be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Madison County, Illinois and that said order be made available to the members of the bar and public.

ENTER: November 13, 2020



William A. Mudge
Chief Judge