

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 22-01

effective February 8, 2022

FILED

FEB 08 2022

Lori Grubbs
Clerk of the Circuit Court
DeKalb County, Illinois

IN THE MATTER OF:)
Modifying this Court’s GENERAL ORDER 22-02)
)
)

WHEREAS, in light of the rate of infection of the Coronavirus variants continuing to decrease, 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 February 8, 2022 the following procedures are in effect in the DeKalb County Courthouse:

- 1) **REMOTE HEARING:** All judges may conduct non-evidentiary hearings and evidentiary hearings in person. All judges may conduct status calls in person but are encouraged but not mandated to continue to use the remote Zoom platform.

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 trials.

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

- 2) **CRIMINAL JURY TRIAL:** All Criminal jury and bench trials may proceed in person before the assigned judge with masking and appropriate social distancing. Any trials that have been reset or continued in reliance on this court’s prior order shall not be affected by this order.

- 3) **CIVIL JURY TRIALS:** All Civil jury and bench trials may proceed in person. The scheduling and rescheduling of civil jury trials will be handled by the judge assigned to the case.

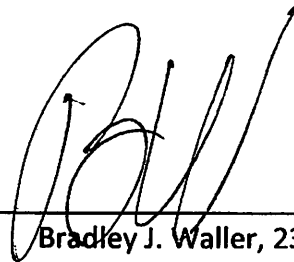
- 4) **BOND CALL/ORDERS OF PROTECTION/EXPUNGEMENTS:** Bond call will continue to be heard remotely using the Zoom platform until further order of court. The Court will

remain 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 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.
- 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 from all other persons 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 is visiting for court related 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 in-person instanter. The judge presiding retains discretion to order a remote appearance in conformity with this order.
- 10) **WEDDINGS:** Weddings will resume instanter.
- 11) **OTHER MATTERS:** Non-essential gatherings, meetings, and programs that are scheduled for the DeKalb County Courthouse shall be permitted instanter subject to the approval of both the Sheriff and Chief Judge.

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 8th day of February 2022.



Bradley J. Waller, 23rd Circuit Judge