

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 22-04
effective February 28, 2022

FILED

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

FEB 25 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 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 entered on February 22, 2022 vacated the requirement to wear a mask in a courthouse;

IT IS THEREBY ORDERED, that effective February 28, 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.

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 without masking but with appropriate social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- 3) **CIVIL JURY TRIALS**: All Civil jury and bench trials may proceed in person without masking. 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 be heard remotely using the Zoom platform until further order of court. The Court is open for in-person self-represented litigants for emergency order 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 is 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, are not required to wear a mask/face covering. However, distancing from all other persons shall remain at a minimum of 6 feet during the time the individual is unmasked. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent or prohibit an individual from wearing a mask. All judges shall retain the discretion to require a person to unmask in order to testify or otherwise participate in a court hearing.
- 7) **ADDITIONAL PERSONS DISCOURAGED:** Intentionally deleted.
- 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 has resumed pursuant to prior order.
- 10) **WEDDINGS:** Weddings have resumed pursuant to prior order.
- 11) **OTHER MATTERS:** Non-essential gatherings, meetings, and programs that are scheduled for the DeKalb County Courthouse shall be permitted subject to approval by the Sheriff and the Chief Judge. Such approval will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 12) Subject to paragraph 6 above, the Sheriff and his staff retain the discretion to mandate and require that an inmate wear a mask at all times while present in the courthouse for a hearing, trial, status or any other in person matter.

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 including but not limited to requiring masking and other precautions that are then authorized by local, State and or Federal authorities.

Entered this  5th day of February 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'BW' in a stylized, cursive font.

Bradley J. Waller, Chief Judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit