



State of Illinois
Circuit Court of Cook County

Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Judges
All OCJ Employees

FROM: Timothy C. Evans *TCE*
Chief Judge
Circuit Court of Cook County

DATE: March 30, 2020

RE: General Administrative Order 2020-01 (amended as of March 30, 2020)
and Press Release

Please see General Administrative Order 2020-01 (amended as of March 30, 2020) and the press release issued by my office today.

Thank you.

TCE:pak
Attachments

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In response to the measures necessitated by the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to, executive orders of the State of Illinois, Cook County, the City of Chicago and other local municipalities, *Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities (Mar. 23, 2020)* of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cook Co. Cir. Ct. G.A.O. No. 2020-01 (eff. Mar. 17, 2020, as amended) is hereby amended as follows. Except as otherwise provided in these amendments, the effective dates, expiration dates, and other time periods are as ordered herein on March 17, 2020.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 2020-01 (amended March 30, 2020)

SUBJECT: COVID-19 EMERGENCY MEASURES

In light of the global coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public, the court's judges and employees, and the staffs of elected officials, after conferring with the offices of the Cook County State's Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Circuit Clerk, County Board President, the Circuit Court Executive Committee, and representatives of the private bar, and pursuant to Ill. S. Ct. R. 21(b) and the court's inherent authority,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, except as provided below, all matters in all Districts and Divisions of the court are rescheduled and continued for a period of 30 days from the originally scheduled court date or a date not more than 30 days after May 18, 2020, whichever is later, unless the 30th day falls on a weekend or court holiday, in which case it shall be continued until the following business day;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, except as necessary for the purposes enumerated below or as otherwise directed by the chief judge, all judges and employees of the court, except those who are essential for essential court operations, shall work remotely and conduct business telephonically or by videoconference;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, effective March 14, 2020, the sheriff of Cook County shall cease enforcement of eviction orders relating to residential real estate and shall resume enforcement of said orders on May 18, 2020; the time period in which such orders expiring before May 18, 2020, must be enforced pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/9-117 is extended 60 days from the current expiration date, but not later than June 15, 2020;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

1. ALL DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS:

- a. Judges will be available in person in each division and district to hear emergency matters, as determined by the Presiding Judge of the respective division or district;
- b. No later than April 16, 2020, except as otherwise ordered by the assigned judge, to the extent it is reasonably possible, all hearings shall be conducted by videoconferencing, so that the only persons physically in the courtroom are those

persons essential to activities that require that person to be in the courtroom; at the discretion of the judge presiding, if it is not reasonably possible to conduct a hearing or by videoconference, it may be conducted by teleconference;

- c. The judge presiding, together with the sheriff, shall take necessary and appropriate measures to ensure the following:
 - i. At no time, shall there be more than 10 (ten) persons in the courtroom at the same time;
 - ii. At all times, all persons in the courtroom shall maintain a minimum distance of 6 (six) feet from all other persons in the courtroom;

2. PRETRIAL DIVISION: Bail hearings, including motions to review bail, will be conducted daily at the Leighton Criminal Court Building;

3. CRIMINAL DIVISION:

- a) Preliminary hearings and arraignments that have commenced as of the effective date of this order will proceed as scheduled.
- b) Court will be in session for plea agreements; priority will be given to defendants who are in custody;
- c) Jury trials in progress as of the effective date of this order will proceed as scheduled and juror deliberations in progress as of the effective date of this order will continue until concluded;
- d) Any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for purposes of sections 103-5 (speedy trial), 109-3.1 (preliminary examination or hearing), and 113-6 (arraignment) of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5, 725 ILCS 5/109-3.1, and 725 ILCS 5/113-6);

4. JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION: Juvenile detention hearings and other emergency matters will be conducted daily at 1100 S. Hamilton Ave., Chicago;

5. CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION: All temporary custody hearings and emergency motions will be heard as scheduled; except as otherwise ordered by the assigned judge, to the extent it is reasonably possible, all hearings shall be conducted by videoconferencing, so that the only persons physically in the courtroom are those persons essential to activities that require that person to be in the courtroom;

6. CHANCERY DIVISION: There shall be a moratorium on final judgments and executions of judgments in mortgage foreclosure proceedings;

7. LAW DIVISION:

All matters currently scheduled to be heard between the entry of this amended order and April 30, 2020, shall be rescheduled and continued for 56 days; all matters currently

scheduled to be heard after April 30, 2020, shall be rescheduled and continued for 35 days;

8. MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT, CRIMINAL CASES

- a. All traffic and misdemeanor cases are continued to the next key date after May 18, 2020; the circuit clerk shall provide postcard notice to the defendant;
- b. In Districts 2-6, the arresting agency shall provide appropriate equipment to enable defendants to participate in their bail hearings by videoconference; if, due to extenuating circumstances, the arresting agency is unable to facilitate videoconferencing for a bail hearing, the arresting agency shall deliver custody of the defendant to the sheriff at the appropriate courthouse, and the sheriff shall provide the equipment and location for a bail hearing by videoconference;
 - i. When a defendant is released by the court without the posting of monetary bail, the arresting agency shall release the defendant from its custody at the place of detention;
 - ii. When a defendant is required to post monetary bail and the defendant or a third party is able to post said bail at the conclusion of the bail hearing, the arresting agency shall take the bail in accordance with the provisions of Section 110-7 or 110-8 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (725 ILCS 5/110-7 or 725 ILCS 5/110-8) and release the defendant to appear in accordance with the conditions of the bail bond;
 - iii. When a defendant or a third party is denied bail or is unable to post required monetary bail at the conclusion of the bail hearing, the arresting agency shall deliver custody of the defendant to the sheriff of Cook County at the Cook County Department of Corrections, 2700 S. California Ave, Chicago, Ill., or such other location as is designated by the sheriff;
- c. The branch courts in the city of Chicago at 3150 West Flournoy Street, 5555 W. Grand Ave., and 727 E. 111th St. shall cease all court operations at the close of business on April 3, 2020, and proceedings normally heard at those locations shall be heard at the Leighton Criminal Court Building until further order of the court;

9. ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AND JUVENILE JUSTICE AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT: In-person meetings between probation officers or social service caseworkers and the persons under their supervision shall be reserved for high-risk clients; for low- and moderate-risk clients, probation officers and social service caseworkers shall contact clients to schedule essential meetings to be held via either video or telephone conference;

10. CIVIL MATTERS, ALL DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS:

- a. Matters deemed by the judge presiding to be emergencies shall be heard and may be conducted either in-person or via video or telephone conference;
- b. Except for oral depositions, discovery shall continue as scheduled;

- c. Where it is not reasonably possible to conduct an oral deposition for reasons related to the COVID-19 emergency, the parties shall use best efforts to postpone the deposition by agreement and stipulation for a period not to exceed 60 days; absent such agreement, the proceedings shall be deferred until such later date as the court can review the matter and issue appropriate directives; nothing in this order shall be construed to limit the discretion of the judge presiding to determine the merits of an attorney's inability to comply with an oral deposition;
- d. In no event shall participants in litigation be penalized if discovery compliance is delayed for reasons relating to the COVID-19 emergency;

11. CIVIL NO CONTACT ORDERS, CIVIL ORDERS OF PROTECTION,

STALKING NO CONTACT ORDERS: Petitions for emergency orders will be heard at 555 W. Harrison St., Chicago, and in Municipal Districts 2, 3, 5, and 6, and, when sought in connection with a Domestic Relations or Probate case, at the Richard J. Daley Center; as designated by the chief judge, petitioners may participate in hearings by videoconference from shelters for victims of domestic violence;

12. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIVISION: Defendants awaiting initial bail hearings in criminal cases at 555 W. Harrison St., Chicago, Ill., shall be transported by the arresting agency to the Cook County Department of Corrections, 2700 S. California Ave, Chicago, Ill., and shall participate in their bail hearings by videoconference from that location;

13. COUNTY DIVISION: Mental health hearings will be held as scheduled.

14. GRAND JURY: No new grand jury shall be empaneled before May 18, 2020. Grand juries whose terms expire on or before March 31, 2020, shall be extended until May 15, 2020;

15. FILING INITIAL AND RESPONSIVE PLEADINGS, RESPONSIVE MOTIONS: Initial and responsive pleadings and responsive motions may be filed in person or by electronic filing with the circuit clerk;

16. MANDATORY ARBITRATION: All hearings shall be rescheduled and continued for a period of 60 days from the currently scheduled date, but not later than June 15, 2020; if the 60th day falls on a weekend or court holiday, it shall be continued until the following business day;

17. FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS: in criminal cases, all forensic examinations of defendants, both adult and juvenile, shall be rescheduled and continued for a period of 60 days from the currently scheduled date or the date of the order requiring such examination, whichever is later, but not later than June 15, 2020; if the 60th day falls on a weekend or court holiday, it shall be continued until the following business day;

18. BAIL, FEES, COURT COSTS, AND PENALTIES, CRIMINAL CASES:

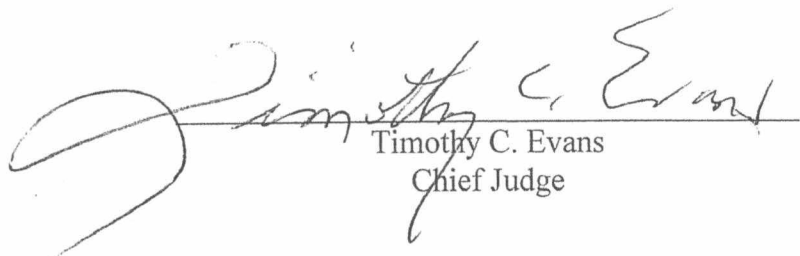
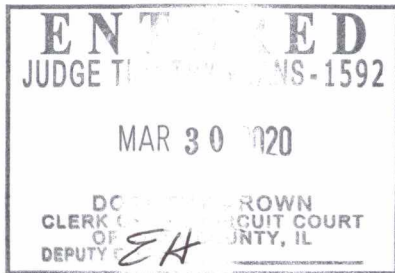
- a. Pursuant to Cook County Code § 18-49,

- i. The circuit clerk shall not deduct any fees, court costs, or penalties from bail bond funds posted by a Charitable Bond Fund or other Third-Party Surety without the surety's voluntary, written consent;
 - ii. The circuit clerk shall not use bail bond funds posted by a Charitable Bond Fund or other Third-Party Surety to pay attorney fees, including reimbursement for representation by the public defender, without the surety's voluntary, written consent;
 - iii. At the conclusion of the case, the circuit clerk shall return all available funds posted by a Charitable Bond Fund or other Third-Party Surety to the surety;
- b. Pursuant to 705 ILCS 105/27.3B, where a charitable bond fund or other third party surety posts cash bail for a defendant, the clerk shall accept payment by credit card, debit card, or other electronic funds transfer and shall not collect the service fee authorized by said statute;

19. OTHER: Non-essential gatherings, meetings, and travel are canceled, and orders to attend programs including Traffic Safety School and SWAP are entered and continued until rescheduled; no marriages will be performed in Marriage Court until May 18, 2020, until further order of the court; as needed, further information will be published on the court's website: <http://www.cookcountycourt.org>.

Dated this 30th day of March, 2020, and effective immediately.

ENTER:



Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge



State of Illinois
Circuit Court of Cook County

Chambers of
Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge

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MARCH 30, 2020
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chief Judge Evans extends postponement of most court cases, orders video appearances systemwide

CHICAGO (MARCH 30, 2020) – Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans today entered an order that extends the postponement of many criminal and civil cases in the Circuit Court of Cook County through May 18.

The order also expands the use of videoconferencing for all court proceedings deemed necessary or emergencies during this time. The Office of the Chief Judge has been working with the justice system stakeholders – the sheriff, clerk, state’s attorney and public defender – on this increased use of video appearances.

Currently, all jail detainees with bail hearings at the Leighton Criminal Court Building appear in court via video. Video has also been used in several other areas of the court. The court anticipates more use of video every day, and all matters will be conducted via video no later than April 16.

Chief Judge Evans’ order also closes three court facilities from April 6 through May 18: the Chicago branch courts at 5555 W. Grand Ave., 727 E. 111th St. and 3150 W. Flournoy St. Any emergency matters in those cases will be heard at the Leighton Criminal Court Building.

“As we continue to monitor the spread of the coronavirus, these actions are needed to protect public health,” Chief Judge Evans said. “Our system of justice must continue to hear all necessary and urgent matters, and today’s order balances access to justice with the need for social distancing. I commend

everybody in the justice system for carrying out their respective missions during this unprecedented time. Though the days ahead present more uncertainty than clarity, we will perform our respective duties safely and effectively.”

Chief Judge Evans considered closing the five suburban courthouses and consolidating all suburban matters into the Leighton Criminal Court Building. But after consulting with Dr. Emily Landon of the University of Chicago Medical Center and the Executive Committee of the court, it was determined that decentralized court operations are in everybody’s best interest to prevent an increased risk of spreading the coronavirus at one centralized location.

Today’s order amends Chief Judge Evans’ March 13 order that similarly allowed emergency matters to proceed in the Circuit Court of Cook County and postponed most cases until April 16. Chief Judge Evans’ new order continues his prior moratorium on evictions or foreclosures, and none will be allowed during this time.

Just like the order entered on March 13, today’s order means that no jury trials in criminal or civil matters would begin until after May 18. Individuals who have been summoned to jury duty through May 18 should not report for jury duty. They will receive a new date for service.

The court will continue to monitor the pandemic and make more announcements as needed.

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