



TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JUDICIAL OFFICE • KENDALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chief Judge Robert Pilmer announced that the court systems in Kendall and DeKalb Counties are taking additional action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Judges of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, consisting of the courts in DeKalb and Kendall Counties, have been monitoring and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an evolving situation with daily, if not hourly changes. The Illinois Supreme Court recommends that courts follow the CDC’s directives to avoid large gatherings and practice “social distancing.”

The Illinois Supreme Court has advised all courts that non-essential in-person court proceedings may pose a risk to participants, court staff, or the public. Courts may avoid risk by rescheduling court events to a later date, especially jury trials and large docket calls, or, alternatively, by holding proceedings via telephone or video remote appearance where possible.

Furthermore, essential proceedings, such as criminal proceedings, juvenile temporary custody hearings, temporary restraining orders/temporary injunctions, juvenile detention hearings, family violence protective orders, and certain mental health proceedings, shall occur in a manner consistent with the policy of mitigating the impact of COVID-19. While keeping the courts available to the fullest extent, all proceedings must be consistent with public safety as well as any further policy directives from the Supreme Court and the local chief judge, as well as federal, state, and local public health advisories.

Chief Judge Pilmer states, “Out of an abundance of concern for the health and well-being of the citizens of DeKalb and Kendall Counties, and consistent with the recommendations of the Illinois Supreme Court, as well as the DeKalb County and Kendall County Health Departments, many of the civil and criminal cases in the 23rd Judicial Circuit will be postponed for a 30 day period beginning on Wednesday, March 18th and continuing through Friday, April 17th.”

The courts will take the following action, effective on Wednesday, March 18th:

- No jury trials in criminal or civil matters will begin in the 30 days. Individuals who have been summoned to jury duty should not report for jury duty. They will receive a new date for service.
- Grand jury proceedings will continue during the 30 days, and the proceedings may be held in courtrooms to provide more space and distance between people. Individuals who are currently serving in grand jury proceedings must report to court.
- For all adult criminal cases, all trials and many hearings scheduled for the 30 days will be postponed to a future date. Hearings that will proceed in the 30 days include bail hearings, arraignments and preliminary hearings. In addition, defendants may continue to enter into plea agreements to conclude their case. Any pretrial defendant may also request a bail review during this time.
- In addition, for the 30 days, probation officers will contact clients to inform them that they will schedule meetings to be held by phone conversation. Clients deemed high-risk will still be required to report to their probation officers in person.
- All traffic, DUI, and criminal misdemeanor cases scheduled in the 30 days will be rescheduled to a future date, except that hearings on Petitions to Rescind Summary Suspensions will be set for hearing in accordance with the applicable statute..
- For delinquency and criminal proceedings involving juveniles, the only matters which will occur during the 30 days are demands for trial and detention hearings that determine if a juvenile is held in custody while the case is pending.
- Judges will hear cases of child abuse or neglect in which the state seeks protective custody of a child, and judges will hear emergency motions in which children are allegedly abused in foster care.
- For domestic violence matters, petitioners may seek orders of protection during the 30 days, and hearings on the Petitions will be heard within the 30 days, as provided by statute. Litigants may also seek an order of protection related to an existing civil domestic relations case (such as dissolution of marriage). Emergency petitions may also be filed in child-support matters.

- Child support enforcement matters will be continued to a future date. Emergency petitions may also be filed in child-support matters.
- For the 30-day period, all civil matters not deemed an emergency will be postponed to a future date. Emergency requests in civil matters will be permitted.
- No new orders for possession arising from an eviction or foreclosure proceeding will be enforced during the 30-day period.
- New civil lawsuits may still be filed via electronic filing.
- Marriages: We will continue to perform marriages in the courthouse as needed. When you call the court administrator for the respective county to schedule a wedding, the court administrator will advise you of any specific restrictions which may be in effect in that county.
- Tours: Any courthouse tours scheduled between now and Friday, April 17th are canceled. Future courthouse tours may be scheduled through the court administrator for each county.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT CHIEF JUDGE BOB PILMER 630-553-4208**

Reference:

Illinois Supreme Court Press Release of March 13, 2020

<https://courts.illinois.gov/Media/PressRel/2020/031320.pdf>