

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SUPPLEMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – FAMILY DIVISION

Effective November 30, 2020

IN THE MATTER OF COVID-19)
FAMILY TRIAL PROCEDURES)

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus pandemic is ongoing and confirmed cases are increasing in number, and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public, circuit court judges and circuit court employees, and pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the Court's inherent authority; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Illinois entered Order M.R. 30370 on May 20, 2020, authorizing each Circuit Court to return to hearing court matters, whether in person or remotely, according to the schedule to be adopted for each county by the Chief Judge of each Circuit. The Order recommends that Circuit Courts shall continue, to the extent possible, to allow for appropriate social distancing; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of all of the above-named parties and individuals to limit the number of people in the Kane County Judicial Center and in each of the individual courtrooms to as few as needed to accomplish critical tasks; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the Family Division and the Chief Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit have determined that additional temporary restrictions are necessary at this time,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following temporary procedures will apply to all cases assigned to the Family Division:

1. All in person appearances by attorneys and litigants are suspended effective November 30, 2020 and will not recommence until February 1, 2021, subject to enumerated conditions of this Order. Attorneys and litigants who are scheduled for in person dates in December of 2020 and January of 2021 are expected to appear remotely during that time period;
2. All trials and contested motions currently scheduled in December of 2020 and January of 2021, at the discretion of the Presiding Judge of the Family Division, may take place in person as currently set; parties seeking to appear in person due to the complexity of a matter shall reach out the trial judge to seek authorization to appear in person.
3. Normal procedures remain in effect for parties seeking to file an Emergency Petition for Order of Protection/Stalking No Contact Orders. Litigants should report to Room 149 to process their Emergency Petitions.

4. Courtroom 101, Judge Yetter, shall remain open to both attorneys and litigants for hearings on Orders of Protection/Stalking No Contact returns on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Remote appearances, if possible, are encouraged.
5. Effective February 1, 2021, the in person/remote staggered court calls will resume.
6. To the extent that they do not conflict with this Supplemental Order, the terms of the Administrative Order effective June 8, 2020, remain in full force and effect.
7. Parties who have scheduled **DNA testing** will be granted access to the Judicial Center and shall pursuant to Court Order.

Entered this 19th day of November, 2020

René Cruz , Presiding Judge
Family Division