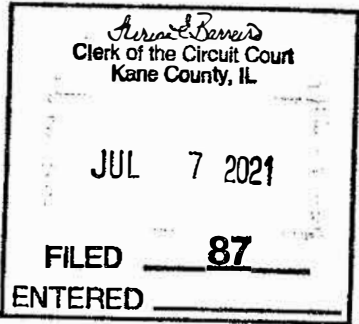


**IN THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
**GENERAL ORDER 21-12**  
*Effective July 7, 2021*

IN THE MATTER OF )  
 AMENDING AND SUPERSEDING )  
 GENERAL ORDER 20-07, )  
 GENERAL ORDER 20-14, )  
 GENERAL ORDER 20-18, )  
 GENERAL ORDER 20-22, )  
 GENERAL ORDER 20-29, )  
 GENERAL ORDER 20-30, )  
 GENERAL ORDER 21-01, )  
 GENERAL ORDER 21-02 )  
 GENERAL ORDER 21-04 )  
 GENERAL ORDER 21-06 and )  
 GENERAL ORDER 21-11 )  
 COVID-19 EMERGENCY MEASURES )  
 IMPACTING COURT OPERATIONS )



**WHEREAS**, due to measures implemented by the State of Illinois and the Kane County Health Department including but not limited to the availability of vaccines, the Coronavirus pandemic infection rates have decreased to such a degree that many Court Operations which have been modified may resume while still protecting the health and safety of the public, Circuit Court Judges and Circuit Court employees, and pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the Court’s inherent authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of Illinois entered Order MR. 30370 on June 30, 2021, stating that effective immediately the Chief Judges of each Circuit Court are no longer required to allow for appropriate social distancing as required by the Court’s Order of May 20, 2020 and are permitted to relax or eliminate social distancing requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of all of the above-named parties and individuals to resume many pre-pandemic court operations in the Kane County Judicial Center, Kane County Courthouse, Kane County Juvenile Justice Center, and Kane County Branch Courts in order to provide increased access to the Courts and to address delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED**, that effective July 7, 2021, the following procedures are in effect in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit:

- 1) **SOCIAL DISTANCING:** Persons who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and are two weeks past their final vaccine injection may enter Kane County court facilities and conduct business without social distancing. Persons who have not been vaccinated must continue to maintain six (6) feet social distancing.

- 2) **KANE COUNTY COURTS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Persons who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and are two weeks past their final vaccine injection may enter the court facilities and conduct business without facemasks or face coverings.

A person may be denied entry to the court facilities if they have new flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath (excluding symptoms caused by chronic conditions).

A person may be denied entry to the court facilities if they currently have been directed to quarantine or isolate at home by any medical provider or public health official.

A person may be denied entry to the court facilities if they reside or have regular close contact with a person currently subject to a quarantine or isolation direction issued by a medical provider or public health official and are not themselves fully vaccinated.

The 16th Judicial Circuit will not routinely screen persons in the court facilities to determine their vaccination status, but reserves the right to inquire as to any person's vaccination status and/or require proof thereof.

- 3) **COURT OPERATIONS:** Each Division has entered an Administrative Order establishing procedures for each Division. Attorneys and self-represented litigants appearing in these Divisions should consult the Administrative Orders (found under Court Orders on the Kane County Circuit Clerk's Office website, [cic.co.kane.il.us](http://cic.co.kane.il.us)) to learn about the scheduling and procedures that must be followed for their case. It is each Divisions' goal to incorporate, retain, and balance in-person and remote court for the benefit of all court users.
- 4) **REMOTE HEARING:** Pursuant to each Divisions' Administrative Order, if your case is going to be heard remotely, parties should plan to appear as scheduled, to make a timely appearance, and should familiarize themselves with the "[Guidelines for Virtual Courtroom Proceedings of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit](#)" and the "[Illinois Supreme Court Remote Access Policy](#)", effective January 1, 2020, and revised effective June 1, 2020.

A "remote hearing" is one that is conducted either telephonically or via a video conferencing system. A "remote hearing" includes, but is not limited to, status dates, pleas, motion hearings, and trials. The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit utilizes the Zoom video conferencing platform.

Each judge may exercise his or her discretion in establishing additional parameters for remote hearings. In misdemeanor and felony matters, a circuit court clerk and court reporter must be present either in-person, telephonically, or by video conferencing when contested remote hearings are held to ensure a record is made.

- 5) **FELONY, MISDEMEANOR/TRAFFIC JURY TRIALS:** Jury trials will resume in individual courtrooms beginning Thursday, July 8, 2021. All jury trials will proceed under the protocol described in the new Administrative Orders dated July 7, 2021. This order

incorporates the language contained in the Illinois Supreme Court order M.R. 30370, signed June 30, 2021, “Beginning October 1, 2021, statutory time restrictions in section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5) and section 5-601 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 (705 ILCS 405/5-601) shall no longer be tolled. All days on and following October 1, 2021, shall be included in speedy trial computations as contained in section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 and section 5-601 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. Days prior to this Court’s March 20, 2020, order in M.R. 30370 *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency/Impact on Trials* shall also be included in speedy trial computations as required by the statutory time restrictions in section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963. Days prior to this Court’s April 3, 2020, modification to M.R. 30370 *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency/Impact on Trials* shall also be included in speedy trial computations as required by the statutory time restrictions of section 5-601 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.”

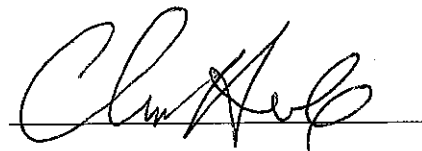
- 6) **CIVIL JURY TRIALS:** Civil jury trials will resume in individual courtrooms beginning Monday, July 12, 2021.
- 7) **BOND CALL/ORDERS OF PROTECTION/EXPUNGEMENTS (COURTROOM 005):** Bond call will continue to be heard remotely at the Kane County Judicial Center using the Zoom platform. Aurora and Elgin bond call matters will also be heard remotely at the Kane County Judicial Center. The Courtroom will be open for in-person appearances for emergency orders of protection, stalking/no contact orders, civil no contact orders, plenary orders of protection hearings and expungements.
- 8) **MENTAL HEALTH COURT:** All hearings will continue as scheduled.
- 9) **SPECIALTY COURTS:** Drug Court, Treatment Alternative Court, and Veterans Court will be held in-person unless otherwise ordered by the Court.
- 10) **GRAND JURY:** Both the Tuesday and the Friday afternoon grand juries will continue to meet in-person at the Kane County Judicial Center.
- 11) **WEDDINGS:** Weddings have resumed.
- 12) **KANE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY & SELF HELP LEGAL CENTER:** During business hours the public is welcome to visit the Law Library, call, or utilize the chat feature on the website.
- 13) **ARBITRATION HEARINGS:** In-person Arbitration hearings will resume as scheduled.
- 14) **BANKRUPTCY/WORKERS COMPENSATION:** Bankruptcy Hearings will not be conducted at the Kane County Courthouse until further order of the Bankruptcy Court. Workers’ Compensation Trials will resume at the Kane County Courthouse on August 1, 2021.

15) **CHILDREN'S WAITING ROOM:** The waiting room is open.

16) **OTHER MATTERS:** Non-essential gatherings, meetings and programs at the Kane County Courthouse, Kane County Judicial Center, or the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center may be held upon authorization by the Chief Judge or Court Administration.

The Court may issue further Orders, as necessary, to address the changing circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic.

Entered this 7th day of July 2021, and effective July 7, 2021.



Clint Hull, Chief Judge