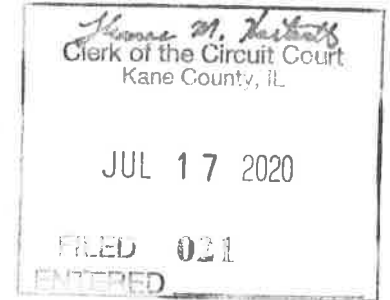


**IN THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GENERAL ORDER 20-24
Superseding and replacing General Order 20-21
effective July 17, 2020**



IN THE MATTER OF)
COVID-19)
REQUIREMENT OF MASKS)
IN ALL COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS)

WHEREAS, in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public, circuit court judges and court employees, and after consultation with the offices of the Kane County State’s Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Circuit Clerk, and representatives of the private bar, and pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the Court’s inherent authority; and

WHEREAS, due to the frequently changing circumstances involved with the COVID-19 pandemic, measures must continue to be implemented and updated to protect the health and safety of all those working inside the courthouse and the public, and to ensure the fair and efficient access to justice; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court Guidelines For Resuming Illinois Judicial Branch Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic recommends that all practical measures should be taken within the courthouse and courtrooms to ensure a clean environment and prevent the spread of the virus, including notifying all entering the courthouse that wearing a mask/face covering is required (consistent with current public health requirements and Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order); and

WHEREAS, General Order 20-21, “IN THE MATTER OF COVID-19 REQUIREMENT OF MASKS IN ALL COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS”, was entered on June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, General Order 20-21 stated in part “that the Court may issue further Orders, as necessary, to address the changing circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, changing circumstance require additions to General Order 20-21.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that upon the effective date of this Order General Order 20-24, General Order 20-21 is superseded and replaced, and until further order of the court:

- 1) Anyone over the age of two entering and occupying public areas of the courthouse must wear a mask/face covering, unless excused by the presiding judge; and
- 2) The mask/face covering must be well-secured and worn in such a manner as to cover both the mouth and nose of the individual; and

- 3) Individuals are encouraged to wear their own mask/face covering. If an individual does not have a mask/face covering, one may be provided to them, if available. If a mask/face covering is not available, the individual will not be allowed to enter the courthouse; and
- 4) If an individual refuses to wear a mask/face covering, he/she will be denied entry; and
- 5) Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent them from safely wearing masks/face coverings. An individual who is not medically able to tolerate a mask/face covering due to a medical condition or disability, should contact the Court's Accessibility Coordinator as soon as possible in advance of the scheduled court proceeding, so that appropriate, reasonable accommodations can be made; and
- 6) Once inside the courthouse, if an individual refuses to wear a mask/face covering as prescribed in this Order, they will be asked to put one on or adjust their current mask/face covering accordingly. If they continue to refuse to wear the mask/face covering at all, or wear it not as prescribed, they will be removed from the building; and
- 7) All judges, judicial staff, courthouse employees, attorneys and members of the general public must wear masks/face coverings when inside the public spaces of the courthouses, at all times, including the lobby, elevators, restrooms, public corridors, and courtrooms, regardless of whether the courtroom is open to the public; and
- 8) In limited situations where appropriate social distancing can be maintained, the presiding judge of the courtroom may remove his/her mask/face covering if necessary to make an appropriate record and to conduct court proceedings; and
- 9) In limited situations where appropriate social distancing can be maintained, the presiding judge of the courtroom may grant permission to the attorneys and/or litigants appearing in front of him/her to remove their mask/face covering to be heard in a court proceeding. If permission is granted, the attorney or litigant must place their mask/face coverings back on immediately upon conclusion of the hearing; and
- 10) In limited situations during hearings and trials, where appropriate social distancing can be maintained, the presiding judge of the courtroom may grant permission to witnesses to remove their mask/face coverings while testifying.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that court security personnel and judicial staff shall take reasonable measures to enforce six-foot social distancing and the wearing of masks/face coverings within the public spaces of the courthouses and all courtrooms.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in addition to requiring masks/face coverings and practicing social distancing, the 16th Judicial Circuit is limiting the number of people inside the courthouses and courtrooms.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court may issue further Orders, as necessary, to address the changing circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic.

Entered this 17th day of July 2020, effective immediately.


Clint Hull, Chief Judge

A true copy of the original of this document is on file in my office
Attest: July 17, 2020
Thomas M. Hartwell
Circuit Court Clerk, Kane County, Illinois
By: Thomas M. Hartwell
Deputy Clerk