SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUPPLEMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

-- MISDEMEANOR/TRAFFIC DIVISION --

Effective November 30, 2020

IN THE MATTER OF COVID-19
MISDEMEANOR/TRAFFIC COURTROOM
AND 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 the Branch Courts and in each of the individual courtrooms to as few as needed to accomplish critical tasks; and

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

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

- 1. All jury trials are suspended effective November 30, 2020, and will not recommence until, at the earliest, February 1, 2021. All served subpoenas will be continued to the next trial date at the request of the parties.
- 2. All in person appearances by attorneys and litigants are suspended effective November 30, 2020 and will not recommence until, at the earliest, February 1, 2021.
- 3. Attorneys and litigants who are scheduled for in person dates in December 2020 and January 2021 are expected to appear remotely during that time period.
- 4. Effective November 30, 2020, all documents that are not submitted to the Court through the ECO system must be submitted via DocuSign;

- 5. Bench trials and contested evidentiary motions currently scheduled in December of 2020 and January of 2021, are expected to take place remotely. In limited cases, however, and at the discretion of the Presiding Judge, such trials may take place in person as currently set. The number of such trials and how they will be conducted (e.g. witnesses appearing via Zoom) shall be determined by each Misdemeanor & Traffic trial judge according the health and safety concerns for each particular courtroom location;
- 6. Judges will be available to hear emergency matters as required. Emergency matters must be approved for scheduling by the Presiding Judge after consultation with the trial judge. Attorneys must contact the assigned judge by email, which must set forth the emergency in detail. The assigned judge will respond after consulting with the Presiding Judge.
- 7. Effective February 1, 2021, the in person/remote staggered court calls will resume.
- 8. To the extent that they do not conflict with this Supplemental Order, the terms of the Criminal Jury Trial Administrative Order effective July 1, 2020, remain in full force and effect.

Entered this 18th day of November, 2020

Villa, Robert Nov 18 2020 3:02 PM

Honorable Robert K. Villa

Presiding Judge, Misdemeanor & Traffic Division