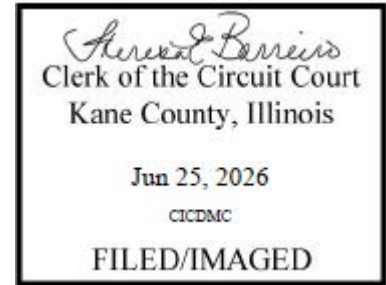


**In The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit**  
**General Order 26-09**  
*June 25, 2026*



**In The Matter Of**  
**Court Facility Access, Public Demonstrations,**  
**And Safety Guidelines Regarding Protest Activities**

**Whereas**, the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit recognizes and respects the constitutional rights of individuals to engage in peaceful assembly, free speech, and lawful protest; and

**Whereas**, the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit has an independent obligation to ensure public safety, preserve access to court facilities, protect litigants, jurors, witnesses, attorneys, court personnel, and law enforcement officers, and maintain the orderly administration of justice; and

**Whereas**, the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit finds that clear guidelines are necessary to accommodate lawful public demonstrations while ensuring that court operations are not disrupted;

**Whereas**, the enforcement of local, state, and federal laws is vested in those governmental agencies and officers authorized by law to exercise such authority, and no provision of this General Order (Order) shall be construed to authorize interference with, obstruction of, or assumption of those enforcement responsibilities by members of the public, demonstrators, or any person lacking legal authority;

**Whereas**, courthouse operations shall take priority over all protest activity.

**Therefore, It Is Hereby Ordered:**

**Section 1: Purpose**

This Order establishes guidelines for public demonstrations, vigils, assemblies, protests, and related activities concerning immigration enforcement, federal agencies, state agencies, local law enforcement agencies, or any other governmental entity occurring on or near court property.

Nothing in this Order shall be construed to prohibit lawful and peaceful expressive activity protected by the United States Constitution or the Constitution of the State of Illinois.

**Section 2: Definitions**

For purposes of this Order:

A. "Court Facility" means the judicial center, courthouse buildings, courtrooms, clerk offices, probation offices, jury assembly areas, secured parking areas, branch courts and all interior public and non-public court spaces.

B. "Demonstration" means any organized protest, rally, vigil, march, picket, assembly, or expressive gathering.

C. "Law Enforcement Agency" includes federal, state, county, and municipal agencies, including but not limited to ICE, CBP, FBI, DHS, U.S. Marshals Service, Illinois State Police, Sheriff's Offices, and municipal police departments.

### **Section 3: Designated Public Assembly Areas**

To protect public access and court operations, demonstrations shall be conducted only within designated public assembly areas:

#### **Kane County Judicial Center Assembly Zone**

The public lawn area adjacent to the public sidewalk located no less than 100 feet from any Judicial Center entrance.

#### **Kane County Courthouse Assembly Zone**

The public sidewalk corridor along the perimeter of court property that does not impede pedestrian traffic, emergency vehicle access, or building ingress and egress.

#### **Overflow Assembly Zone**

Any additional area designated by the Chief Judge, Trial Court Administrator, Sheriff, or courthouse security personnel when attendance exceeds available space.

The Trial Court Administrator may establish temporary barriers or markings identifying the designated assembly areas.

### **Section 4: Prohibited Locations**

No person shall:

1. Demonstrate inside any courthouse building.
2. Block entrances, exits, sidewalks, driveways, or ADA-accessible routes.
3. Drive erratically through parking lots or access roads serving court facilities;
4. Chase, pursue, run after, or otherwise interfere with law enforcement officers, court personnel, or vehicles entering, exiting, or operating on court property;
5. Occupy stairways, hallways, lobbies, or security screening areas.
6. Interfere with jurors, witnesses, litigants, attorneys, judges, court staff, or law enforcement personnel entering or exiting court facilities.
7. Enter secured or restricted areas without authorization.
8. Use amplified sound within 250 feet of any courtroom while court is in session.

## **Section 5: Peaceful Conduct Requirements**

Participants shall:

1. Remain peaceful and nonviolent.
2. Follow lawful instructions issued by court security personnel and law enforcement officers.
3. Avoid conduct intended to intimidate, harass, threaten, or physically obstruct any individual.
4. Respect the rights of individuals who choose not to participate.
5. Maintain reasonable pedestrian access at all times.

Nothing herein prohibits lawful chanting, singing, distribution of literature, or display of signs within designated assembly areas.

## **Section 6: Vehicle Safety And Traffic Management**

To protect public safety and ensure uninterrupted access to court facilities:

### **A. No Vehicle Blockades**

No vehicle shall be parked, stopped, or positioned so as to:

1. Block courthouse entrances;
2. Obstruct emergency access routes;
3. Prevent ingress or egress to parking lots;
4. Interfere with public transportation stops or ADA access points.

### **B. Moving Demonstrations**

Vehicle caravans, processions, or convoys shall:

1. Comply with all traffic laws;
2. Obey traffic signals and posted speed limits;
3. Maintain emergency access at all times;
4. Refrain from intentionally impeding traffic flow.

### **C. Horns and Sound Devices**

The prolonged or repeated use of vehicle horns, whistles, sirens, loudspeakers, or other sound amplification devices intended to disrupt law enforcement activities or that otherwise interferes with peaceful and orderly court proceedings or that is perceived as intimidating, disturbing or alarming to any person seeking to enter the facilities is prohibited.

## **D. Passenger Safety**

No person shall:

1. Ride on the exterior of a vehicle;
2. Sit on vehicle roofs, hoods, trunks, or open tailgates while the vehicle is in motion;
3. Enter or exit moving vehicles;
4. Throw objects from vehicles.

## **E. Parking**

Participants shall park only in legally authorized public parking spaces and shall not occupy spaces reserved for:

- Judges;
- Jurors;
- Persons with disabilities;
- Emergency vehicles;
- Court employees;
- Law enforcement operations.

## **Section 7: Interaction With Law Enforcement**

Individuals participating in demonstrations shall:

1. Remain calm and non-confrontational;
2. Follow lawful orders related to safety and access;
3. Refrain from physically interfering with any law enforcement activity;
4. Document events only from lawful public locations;
5. Respect established security perimeters.

Nothing in this Order authorizes interference with arrests, investigations, prisoner transport operations, or courthouse security functions.

## **Section 8: Emergency Access**

At all times, a minimum unobstructed emergency access corridor shall be maintained for:

- Ambulances;
- Fire apparatus;
- Law enforcement vehicles;
- Security vehicles;
- ADA transportation services.

The Kane County Sheriff or designated security personnel may temporarily relocate individuals when necessary to preserve emergency access.

## **Section 9: Media And Recording**

Recording and photography shall remain subject to existing Illinois Supreme Court Rules, local court rules, and courthouse regulations concerning electronic devices and courtroom proceedings.

## **Section 10: Enforcement**

Persons who violate this Order may be:

1. Directed to relocate;
2. Removed from court property;
3. Subject to lawful citation or arrest when authorized by law;
4. Subject to contempt proceedings when conduct interferes with the administration of justice.

## **Section 11: Effective Date**

This General Order shall take effect immediately upon entry and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by further order of the Court.

Entered this 25th day of June 2026, and effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. K. Villa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Robert K. Villa, Chief Judge