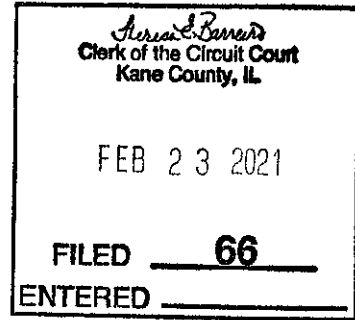


IN THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GENERAL ORDER 21-04
Effective February 23, 2021

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



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

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court has, pursuant to the Illinois Supreme Court’s order of March 17, 2020, reduced its operation to essential activities; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court’s order of May 20, 2020, allows circuits to adopt their own plans for resumption of court activity; and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that General Order 20-07, effective March 17, 2020, amended and superseded by General Order 20-14, effective April 6, 2020, amended and superseded by General Order 20-18, effective April 22, 2020, amended and superseded by General Order 20-22, effective June 1, 2020, amended and superseded by General Order 20-29 effective November 30, 2020, amended and superseded by General Order 20-30, effective November 30, 2020, amended and superseded by General Order 21-01, effective January 15, 2021 and is amended by this General Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that except as necessary for the purposes enumerated below, all judges and judicial employees of the Circuit Court of Kane County shall be encouraged to work remotely and conduct business telephonically or via videoconference from the effective date of this order. All Judges will be available to sign orders remotely and conduct remote hearings at their discretion.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that in the event people are required to appear, there shall be not more than 10 (ten) persons in the courtroom at the same time unless otherwise allowed by the sitting judge of that courtroom, and all persons in the courtroom shall maintain a minimum distance of 6 (six) feet from all other persons in the courtroom.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, that effective February 23, 2021, the following procedures are in effect in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit:

- 1) **REMOTE COURT ACTIVITY:** Effective January 15, 2021, all Divisions will continue to hear all matters remotely, with the exception and provisos set forth below. Each Division has entered Administrative Orders titled "In the Matter of Covid-19 Temporary Procedures for _____ Matters" establishing temporary procedures for each division. Attorneys and self-represented litigants appearing in these divisions should consult the Administrative Orders to learn about the scheduling and procedures that must be followed for each division. Remote court activity will continue until further order of Court.
- 2) **CIVIL JURY TRIALS:** Civil Jury Trials will begin no sooner than April 5, 2021.
- 3) **KANE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY & SELF HELP LEGAL CENTER:** The Law Library and Self Help Legal Center will be physically closed until further order of Court.
- 4) **ARBITRATION HEARINGS:** Arbitration hearings set between February 2, 2021 and April 2, 2021 will be conducted via Zoom. In-person hearings will begin no sooner than April 5, 2021.
- 5) **BANKRUPTCY/WORKERS COMPENSATION:** Hearings will not be conducted at the Kane County Courthouse until further order of Court.
- 6) **OTHER MATTERS:** Non-essential gatherings, meetings, and travel are cancelled, and programs that are scheduled for the Kane County Courthouse, Kane County Judicial Center, or the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center including but not limited to Kids1st, Traffic Safety School, and Victim Impact Panel are continued until after April 5, 2021.

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

Entered this 23rd day of February 2021, and effective February 23, 2021.



Clint Hull, Chief Judge