



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



April 27, 2020

For Immediate Release

FROM: The Chambers of Chief Judge James S. Cowlin

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Updated Administrative Order Entered, and the 22nd Judicial Circuit Continues to Operate Under Emergency Procedures

(Woodstock, IL) The Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center and the 22nd Judicial Circuit remains open, however, the Court continues to hear only emergency and essential matters. In response to Governor J.B. Pritzker's has indicated he will be entering a modified executive order extending his previous Stay at Home Order until May 31, 2020, and in conjunction with the Illinois Supreme Court's Order M.R. 30370, Chief Judge James S. Cowlin has entered an updated Administrative Order governing the operation of the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County.

Judge Cowlin's order includes the following:

- All cases scheduled for trial through May 29, 2020 in the 22nd Circuit, McHenry County, Illinois will be continued to a date certain by the judge assigned to said case.
- Cases in the civil and family divisions shall utilize remote access procedures as allowed by the judge assigned to the case to obtain a new status or trial date.
- In the case of criminal proceedings, any delay resulting from this emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for purposes of section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018)), pursuant to the authority granted to Chief Judges in Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370, trial continuances may be further extended as stated in Order M.R. 30370.
- The public shall make a good faith effort to comply with the Governor's mandate to wear a face covering or mask when entering the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center.

A full copy of the order can be found on the 22nd Judicial Circuit's website at <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/county-government/courts/22nd-judicial-circuit>.

The mission of the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is to be the guardian of life, liberty and property to all seeking access to justice, by adhering to practices that ensure equality, fairness and confidence in the judiciary.

If you have a previously scheduled court date, please contact your attorney, or go to the Circuit Clerk of the Court's website at <https://caseinfo.mchenrycountyil.gov> to see if your case has been rescheduled.

If you are required to attend the 8 hour Traffic Safety School at the McHenry County College, that course is now provided online. Please contact the McHenry County College at 815-479-7777, or email them at MCCTSS@mchenry.edu for further information.

Please be aware when the 22nd Judicial Circuit returns to full operations, your case may be rescheduled to a time different from the past. The Court will be staggering start times to better manage the flow of people through the courthouse. Checking the Circuit Clerk's website will help you arrive at the appropriate time. Check with your attorney to determine if your presence is required. Please **do not** bring friends or family members with you to the building.

Please do not attempt to enter the Judicial Center if you have:

- Flu-like symptoms including fever, cough or shortness of breath;
- Been diagnosed with COVID 19 (or someone close to you has);
- Been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home by any medical provider;
- Traveled, within the last 21 days, to any country designated by the CDC as a high-risk locations for COVID-19; or
- Had close contact with anyone who has traveled to any of these high risk locations.

The court continues to communicate with its justice partners, County Administration, and Emergency Management in order to evaluate this ever changing situation. The Court has had a Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan for a number of years and has planned for this type of emergency situation. Communications from the Court will be sent from the Office of the Trial Court Administrator via press releases, the 22nd Judicial Circuit Facebook Page, Twitter ([@22ndJudCircuit](https://twitter.com/22ndJudCircuit)), website at <http://22ndCircuitIllinois.org> and other social media platforms.

We ask for your continued cooperation and patience as we work to minimize the risk to those utilizing the services of the Court.

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