IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency	)	M.R. 30370

Order

On March 9, 2020, Governor Pritzker declared a State of Emergency in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency. Pursuant to the general administrative and supervisory authority vested in the Supreme Court under Article VI, Section 16 of the Illinois Constitution, Illinois appellate and circuit court procedures and orders entered in response to this ongoing threat of COVID-19 shall be consistent with the following guidelines in order to protect the health and safety of court patrons, staff, judges and the general public:

A. All Illinois courts shall continue to establish and periodically update, as necessary, temporary procedures to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the court system, while continuing to provide access to justice. These procedures shall be consistent with each appellate and circuit court Emergency Preparedness Continuity of Operations Plan (EP-COOP) and its operational plan for essential court functions. Each court shall immediately provide its orders and other communications on temporary procedures to the Supreme Court through its Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. The Supreme Court Communications Office will post information on the Court's website.

B. Essential court matters and proceedings shall continue to be heard by the Illinois courts. If feasible and subject to constitutional limitations, essential matters and proceedings shall be heard remotely via telephone or video or other electronic means.

C. All non-essential court matters and proceedings should be continued or, where possible, conducted remotely via telephone or video or other electronic means.

D. Subject to constitutional limitations, all courts, in any civil or criminal case, may:
    1. Modify or suspend any deadlines and procedures, whether prescribed by local rule or order, for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of emergency declaration has been lifted.

2. Consider as evidence sworn statements made out of court or sworn testimony given remotely, out of court, by teleconference, videoconference, or other means.
3. Require every participant in a proceeding to alert the court if the participant has or knows of another participant who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
4. Take any other reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19.

E. Until further order, the Supreme Court temporarily suspends the operation of any Supreme Court Rules to the extent they are contrary to any provisions of this order.

F. Individuals, including judges, court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors and witnesses, should not enter any courthouse if they:
   1. Have traveled, within the last 21 days, to any country designated by the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as high-risk locations for transmission of COVID-19;
   2. Reside or have close contact with anyone who has traveled to any country designated by the CDC as high-risk locations for transmission of COVID-19;
   3. Have been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home by any medical provider;
   4. Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
   5. Have flu-like symptoms including fever, cough or shortness of breath.

G. All courts should implement temporary reductions in courthouse staffing while maintaining core functions and essential court operations. Temporary suspension or relaxation of leave policies may be necessary. To the extent feasible, court staff able to conduct work remotely should do so.

Order entered by the Court.

SEAL OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ILLINOIS
AUG. 26, 1818

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said Court, this 17th day of March, 2020.

Carolyn Taft Grosboll Clerk,
Supreme Court of the State of Illinois