Supreme Court of Illinois

March 13, 2020

ILLINOIS COURT PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19; SUPREME COURT LIVESTREAM

The Illinois Judicial Branch continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and makes the following recommendations for court procedures in the ensuing weeks.

Consistent with the CDC's directives to avoid large gatherings and practice "social distancing," courts are advised that non-essential in-person court proceedings may pose a risk to participants, court staff, or the public. Courts may avoid risk by rescheduling court events to a later date, especially jury trials and large docket calls, or, alternatively, by holding proceedings via telephone or video remote appearance where possible.

Essential proceedings, such as criminal proceedings, juvenile temporary custody hearings, temporary restraining orders/temporary injunctions, juvenile detention hearings, family violence protective orders, and certain mental health proceedings, shall occur in a manner consistent with the policy of mitigating the impact of COVID-19. While keeping the courts available to the fullest extent, all proceedings must be consistent with public safety as well as any further policy directives from the Supreme Court and the local chief judge, as well as federal, state, and local public health advisories.

Those courts holding telephonic or video remote hearings should consider a method by which the public can have access.

The following individuals **should not** enter any courthouse if they:

- Have been in any of the following countries with the last 21 days: China, South Korea, Italy, Japan, Iran; or
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been in one of those countries listed above within the last 21 days; or
- Have been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for the coronavirus by any medical provider; or
- Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
- Have flu-like symptoms including fever, cough or shortness of breath.

If you are an attorney or litigant and have a scheduled case, appointment or are otherwise required to appear at the courthouse in connection with a court case, but are unable to appear because of the above restrictions, please contact the respective courthouse. The court should make reasonable accommodations and reschedule appearances and hearings as needed.

You may wish to consult with your local health authority for additional guidance on the timing of the suspension of proceedings, as conditions in the local community may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

As an alternative to in-person attendance, the Illinois Supreme Court will livestream oral arguments on March 17 and March 18.

March 17: https://livestream.com/blueroomstream/events/9038306

March 18: https://livestream.com/blueroomstream/events/9038321

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the court website in your local jurisdiction and please also visit the Supreme Court website which is regularly updated with local court information as it is received by clicking here.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Chris Bonjean, Communications Director to the Illinois Supreme Court at 312.793.2323 or cbonjean@illinoiscourts.gov.)