

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 2020 - 01**

**SUBJECT: COVID-10 EMERGENCY MEASURES**

In light of global coronavirus pandemic, and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public, the court's judges and employees, and elected officials, after conferring with the offices of the Cook County State's Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Clerk, County Board President, the Circuit Court Executive Committee, and representatives of the private bar, and pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the court's inherent authority,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that except as provided below, all matters in all Districts and Divisions of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, are rescheduled and continued for a period of 30 days from the originally scheduled court date, unless the 30<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend, in which case it will be continued until the following business day;

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that except as necessary for the purposes enumerated below, all judges and employees of Circuit Court of Cook County shall be encouraged to work remotely and conduct business telephonically or via videoconference for a period of 30 days from the effective date of this order;

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Sheriff of Cook County shall cease execution of eviction orders relating to residential real estate effective March 14, 2020. The Sheriff shall resume execution of said orders in 30 days;

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

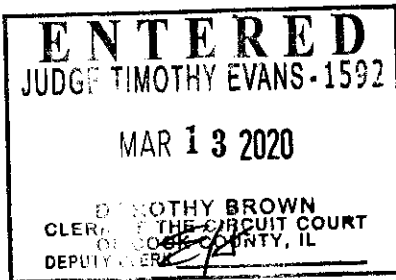
1. **ALL DIVISIONS:** Judges will be available in person in each division and department to hear emergency matters
2. **PRETRIAL DIVISION:** Bail hearings, including motions to review bail, will be conducted daily at all locations;
3. **CRIMINAL DIVISION:**
  - a) Preliminary hearings and arraignments that have commenced as of the effective date of this order will proceed as scheduled.
  - b) Court will be in session for plea agreements.
  - c) Jury trials in progress as of the effective date of this order will proceed as scheduled and juror deliberations in progress as of the effective date of this order will continue until concluded.
4. **JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION:** Juvenile detention hearings and demands for trial will be conducted daily at 1100 S. Hamilton Ave., Chicago.

5. **CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION:** All temporary custody hearings and emergency motions will be heard as scheduled.
6. **CHANCERY DIVISION:** There shall be a moratorium on final judgments and executions of judgments in mortgage foreclosure proceedings.
7. **MUNICIPAL DIVISION, ALL DISTRICTS**  
All traffic and misdemeanor cases are continued to the next key date at least 30 days following the originally scheduled court date. The Clerk of the Circuit Court shall provide postcard notice to the defendant.
8. **ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AND JUVENILE JUSTICE AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT:** In-person meetings between probation officers and social service caseworkers and the persons under their supervision will be reserved for high-risk clients. For low- and moderate-risk clients, probation officers and social service caseworkers will contact clients to schedule essential meetings to be held via either video or telephone conference.
9. **CIVIL MATTERS IN ALL DIVISIONS:** Matters agreed by all parties to be emergencies will be heard and may be conducted either in-person or via video or telephone conference. Discovery in civil matters will continue as scheduled.
10. **EMERGENCY CIVIL ORDERS OF PROTECTION** will be heard at 555 W. Harrison St., Chicago, and in Municipal Districts 2,3,5, and 6, and when sought in connection with a Domestic Relations matter, at the Richard J. Daley Center.
11. **MENTAL HEALTH HEARINGS** will continue as scheduled.
12. **GRAND JURY:** No new grand jury shall be empaneled before May 1, 2020. Grand juries whose terms expire on or before March 31, 2020, shall be extended until April 30, 2020.
13. **FILINGS OF INITIAL PLEADINGS OR RESPONSIVE MOTIONS:** Initial pleadings or responsive motions may be filed in person or via electronic filing through the Clerk of the Circuit Court.
14. **MANDATORY ARBITRATION:** All hearings shall be rescheduled and continued for a period of 30 days from the date originally scheduled.
15. **FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS:** All forensic examinations of criminal defendants, both adult and juvenile, shall be rescheduled for a period of 30 days from the originally scheduled date or the date of the order requiring such examination, whichever is later.
16. **OTHER:** Non-essential gatherings, meetings, and travel are canceled, and programs including Traffic Safety School and SWAP are entered and continued until rescheduled.

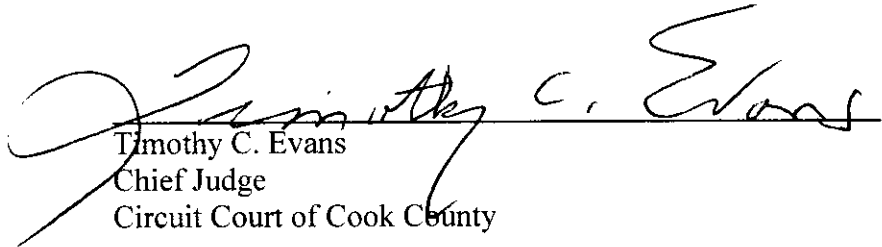
No marriages will be performed in Marriage Court during the 30-day period following the effective date of this order.

The Court may issue further Orders regarding this matter as necessary to address the circumstances arising from this pandemic. Further information will be published on the court's website.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, and effective March 17, 2020. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and published.



**ENTERED:**

  
Timothy C. Evans  
Chief Judge  
Circuit Court of Cook County