

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STATE OF ILLINOIS
PEORIA, TAZEWELL, MARSHALL, PUTNAM AND STARK COUNTIES

SUPERSEDING* ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 – 13 (A.O.)

**JUNE 2020 CIRCUIT-WIDE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE COURTS,
INCLUDING COURTHOUSE ACCESS AND TRIALS**

*This A.O. will supersede, as of June 1, 2020, all prior circuit-wide A.O.'s (2020 - 04, 08, 09, and 10) on the Covid-19 pandemic topic, so as to provide clarity and reduce confusion. In addition, this A.O. supersedes Peoria County A.O.'s 2020 – 03 and 05.

WHEREAS, for those reasons mentioned in prior 10th Circuit Administrative Orders entered in March and April of 2020, and reference therein to various Orders of the Illinois Supreme Court (M.R. 30370), all dealing with the global Covid-19 pandemic, and after consultation/input with and from various local justice partners, including but not limited to, local public health departments, State's Attorneys, Public Defenders, County Administration, Sheriffs, Jury administrators, Circuit Clerks, bar association officer(s), I.T. reps, Probation reps, Court Administration, and;

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to update prior Administrative Orders, taking access to justice and public safety into account and upon considering guidance received from, but not limited to, the Illinois Supreme Court (e.g., M.R. Order 30370 of May 20, 2020);

WHEREFORE, the undersigned, as Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, does:

ORDER

1. Courtrooms. All courtrooms (14 in Peoria, 6 in Tazewell and 1 each in Marshall, Putnam and Stark) are reopened for limited court business as described herein, subject to the oversight of the Chief Judge or respective Presiding Judge in each County.

2. Limitations. In-person access to courthouses for courtroom business will be allowed on a **limited basis**, permitted only upon permission for an in-person hearing to be set by the judge of the respective courtrooms who have been directed by the undersigned to gradually allow essential or non-essential in-person matters, but no more than a few per hour or unit of time that is appropriate for the respective docket and court facility. Each County and courtroom are different and will have their own schedule as approved by its respective judge. The goal is to have a minimal number of members of the public in courtrooms or their environs at any time, all complying with those safety **Precautions** described in paragraph 6 below. Large 'same time' docket calls, including but not limited to CMC's, PTR's, OP's, SC/AG/OV block times and Traffic 1st appearances will not be allowed in-person, subject to minimal appearances as allowed by respective judge consistent herewith. **Remote hearings are still expected to be conducted with increased frequency via phone and video conference.** Contact the individual courtroom/clerk for details. Some, but less continuances will still need to occur.

Spectator, non-litigant/non-attorney and guest appearances in the courthouse for court business is strongly discouraged.

Specific standing Orders of individual courtroom procedure may be in existence and published on the Tenth's website at www.10thcircuitcourtil.org. If none, attorneys/self-represented litigants may communicate with each individual courtroom as before the pandemic concerning matters of procedure and scheduling.

3. Screening. A health screening by County or Court officials may be in place at the security checkpoint or point of destination for anyone attempting entry into the various courthouses, which may include, but might not necessarily be limited to: a written or verbal questionnaire, a temperature check, an identification check (to assist with possible later contact tracing), or the like.

4. Entry prohibited. No person will be allowed access to the courthouses in the 10th Circuit if you have:

- a) Flu-like symptoms or illness, including, but not limited to, fever, cough or shortness of breath;
- b) Been diagnosed with Covid-19, or someone close to you has within past 60 days.
- c) Been directed to quarantine, self-isolate or self-monitor at home by a medical provider;
- d) Traveled within past 21 days to any country designated by the CDC as a high-risk location for Covid-19, or had close contact with anyone who has, within past 21 days.

Anyone turned away or refusing the screening will be asked to leave his/her name, and contact address with security, so that this information can be passed along to the respective courtroom.

5. Court date inquiries. It is always a litigant's responsibility to know of his/her next court date and, if a Self-represented litigant (SRL), to keep the Circuit Clerk advised of your current address. The Courts will make reasonable accommodations while this A.O. is in effect. To inquire as to your next court date, talk to your attorney, or if an SRL, you may contact:

- a) Peoria County: www.judicial.peoriacounty.org/Portal or (309) 672-6984.
- b) Tazewell County: www.tazewellcountyil.com click online court records link or (309) 477-2218 for traffic and (309) 477-2214 for all other case types
- c) Marshall County: www.judici.com (select Marshall County) or (309) 246-6435
- d) Putnam County: www.judici.com (select Putnam County) or (815) 925-7016
- e) Stark County: www.judici.com (select Stark County) or (309) 286-5941

6. Precautions. Face coverings are required for public entry into and within the public spaces of the Peoria courthouse and within courtrooms for the public if social distancing cannot be maintained, subject to exemptions for Courts personnel and as directed by the judge of the respective courtroom. Face coverings may be required in other courthouses/courtrooms of the Tenth as directed by the respective Presiding Judge. Frequently touched surfaces will be regularly cleaned, but the public is encouraged to wash hands before and after appearances, maintain social distancing, make use of hand sanitizer in courtrooms, follow directional signage, and avoid touching your face.

7. Grand Jury. Grand jury proceedings will be conducted in June in Tazewell, but not Peoria. Remaining Counties as determined by Presiding Judge in consult with respective State's Attorneys.

8. Jury trials. To start, Jury Trial(s) in June in Peoria will be limited to one potential trial per week out of precaution for prospective jurors. Any courtroom judge requesting a jury trial to proceed in June will submit such case(s) to the Chief Judge in advance who will then prioritize which case has the number 1 setting and which case will be a back-up. Trials will be conducted in CR 210. In-custody criminal cases will have priority over other cases. All other trial requests will be continued. To the extent speedy trial implications are involved, any such continuance, per Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370 will be excluded from speedy trial computations and statutory time restrictions applicable to same shall be tolled until further Order of the Supreme Court.

Jury trials in Tazewell, Marshall, Putnam and Stark will proceed, if at all, in June upon approval of the respective Presiding Judge, with above provisions to apply unless otherwise Ordered.

9. Sheriff. Due to high demand and reduction in staff, the Peoria County Sheriff's Office may determine its priorities for staffing of bailiffs and timing of court related matters in general, such as evictions, during June, unless otherwise Ordered. The Main Street entrance to the Peoria County Courthouse will remain closed until further notice from the Sheriff and Chief Judge.

Any sentence under 30 days to the Peoria County Jail is hereby suspended until further notice. The Sheriff may notify any defendant to whom this Order applies of a new report date sent to the last known address of such defendant by regular mail. All defendants have an obligation to notify the Sheriff's office and Circuit Clerk's office of a change of address. Any sentence 30 days or over to the Peoria County Jail must still be served as provided in the sentencing Order.

10. Probation. Probationers should continue to follow directives of your probation officer.

11. Weddings. Marriages in Peoria County will be by video conference with instructions provided at time of license application, unless otherwise determined by the respective judge. Marriages in the other courthouses may be scheduled as permitted by the respective judge and County/Circuit Clerk. Unless otherwise Ordered, only the couple to be married will be allowed in the courthouses for June.

12. Law Library/Self-Help Center. In Tazewell, appointments may be scheduled with law librarian at (309) 477-5790. In Peoria, the LL and SHC remain closed until further notice, however, free online legal research is available to all patrons and attorneys during June. Go to our website (see para. 14 below) and click on the link for COVID-19 INFORMATION to find additional information available to provide assistance.

13. Visitation Center. Remains closed until further notice. For updates, see our website below.

14. Effective Date. This A.O. will take effect June 1, 2020 and will supplant those prior A.O.'s referred to above and may be extended, supplemented or modified as developments occur. For updates on these and other matters involving 10th Circuit Court operations, please visit: www.10thcircuitcourtil.org and click on the COVID-19 INFORMATION link at the top of the page.

ENTERED: May 22, 2020



Paul P. Gilfillan, chief judge