

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

PAUL P. GILFILLAN
Chief Circuit Judge



PEORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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PRESS RELEASE

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**10th CIRCUIT REMAINS OPEN, PAUSES JURY TRIALS,
STRESSES REMOTE OPTION**

Due to the rise of Covid-19 in our area, the 10th Judicial Circuit (Peoria, Tazewell, Marshall, Putnam and Stark Counties) announces that it is pausing jury trials, effective November 30, 2020, through January 8, 2021, subject to extension. Chief Judge Paul Gilfillan also advises that, although the Court has already made extensive use of remote virtual hearings in 2020, it will be increasing its reliance on them and instituting additional measures to minimize the number of persons who must enter courthouse buildings.

All courtrooms in the 10th remain open.

“This is a step taken out of caution,” Chief Judge Gilfillan said. “While jury trials have been conducted safely to date from a juror perspective, the situation in our counties is changing. We must be mindful of the risk and reduce in person attendance to the extent reasonable.”

“With the continued good work, focus and cooperation of attorneys, court staff, justice partners and the public, we are optimistic for better days ahead.”

Additional details can be found in the Circuit-Wide Administrative Order entered today and on the Tenth Circuit’s website: www.10thcircuitcourtil.org.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 – 21
UPDATED COVID-19 CIRCUIT-WIDE OPERATIONAL PLAN, INCLUDING
COURTROOM ACCESS AND JURY TRIALS

This Order supplements A.O.'s 2020 – 13 and 15, entered May 22 and June 26, 2020.

Whereas, this Circuit, pursuant to Supreme Court Order(s), M.R., 30370, previously reduced its operations to essential activities and then later resumed most court activity, much by remote means, and now the undersigned finds it necessary for all of the same reasons referred to in prior A.O.'s in 2020, to take a step back from current court operations, while keeping all courtrooms open for business as described below.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, effective immediately, the following supplemental procedures are in effect in the 10th Judicial Circuit:

- 1. Jury trials.** No jury trials* of any type may proceed in the 10th Circuit from now, through and including January 8, 2021, subject to extension. Dates remain set on the court's docket until continued by court and counsel/parties. Per said Supreme Court Order, to the extent any speedy trial computations and statutory time restrictions are implicated, same shall be tolled until further order of the Supreme Court and mentioned in any such orders where it is germane.
- 2. Public access prohibited in certain circumstances.** No person should enter any courthouse if they; a) are not wearing a face covering, (unless instructed by the court, are under age 2; or have trouble breathing); b) are ill or have flu-like symptoms, including but not limited to, fever, recent cough, shortness of breath; c) have been directed to quarantine or isolate or have been in close contact with someone who has – if you have been tested, you should stay away until you have received your results. A health screening may be in place at the courthouse.
- 3. Reduced call size.** In order to reduce the number of people in the courthouses, the individual courtrooms will, to the extent reasonable, reduce large in person docket calls, and include staggered reporting times. Attorneys should appear at designated time only.
- 4. Remote Proceedings.** The courts will operate with further and increased reliance on virtual proceedings and hearings per Supreme Court Rules 45 and 241. Attorneys and parties and the courts are strongly encouraged to do so.
- 5. Represented Parties Attendance.** Unless required by the judge or directed by their attorney, parties in civil and family cases may be excused from routine court hearings. In criminal cases, judges should discuss with the attorney whether Defendant's presence might be excused, per, but not limited to Local Rule 86.

6. Additional Parties Discouraged. Litigants are strongly discouraged from bringing any other person with them to the courthouse.

7. Court date inquiries. It is always a litigant's responsibility to know of their next court date. If unsure of your next court date, talk to your attorney or, if a Self-Represented Litigant, contact the respective Circuit Clerk's office or visit their County web page. (See A.O. 2020 – 13, par. 5).

8. Individual Courtroom Guidance. Attorneys and parties should be aware individual judges may issue their own guidance on practices in certain courtrooms.

9. Tenth Circuit website. For all prior A.O.'s and the latest information on changing Covid related court news, simply visit our website, www.10thcircuitcourtil.org and click on the Covid banner and/or News.

ENTER: November 24, 2020



Paul P. Gilfillan, Chief Judge

*The remote jury selection and civil trial pilot project of Judge Michael Risinger may proceed as scheduled for the week of December 7, 2020.