

COVID-19 FAQs

The above Administrative Orders outline the new procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although these orders are currently in place, the situation is constantly changing, and there are new and unexpected challenges arising daily. Administrative Orders will be amended or added as needed to address this dynamic situation. Please return to this page frequently to review any new or amended orders.

The following are frequently asked questions regarding the changes in procedure:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Are hearings being held remotely?

A: Yes, as of June 1st all hearings with few exceptions will be held using Zoom.

Q: How do I use Zoom?

A: The following document outlines how to download and use Zoom to appear in court: <https://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/DocumentCenter/View/2812/Zoom-Instruction-and-Protocol-Sheet-51820>

Q: Where can I find the Zoom information for my hearing?

A: The Remote Court Hearing page can be found on the court website using the following link: <https://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/2163/Remote-Court-Hearings>

Q: What if I can't download Zoom?

A: Computers will be available for Zoom use in the law library located inside the courthouse. You can also call in to your hearing using the numbers listed on the Remote Court Hearings scheduling page.

Q: What if I want to appear in person?

A: If you do not feel you can participate in a remote proceeding, you must call the Clerk of the Circuit Court at: 947-377-3209 to request an in-person hearing. The judge will decide if you have good cause to appear in person.

Q: Are marriages still being performed?

A: Yes, marriages are being performed over Zoom. Call the court administration office for more information: 847-377-3600.

Q: What happens to previously scheduled hearings and trials between March 17 and May 29?

A: All court hearings (with some exceptions below) are cancelled and will be automatically continued by the Court.

Q: How will I find out my rescheduled court date?

A: The Clerk of the Circuit Court sends notices with the rescheduled dates. If you do not receive notice of a continued date, you should contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court at **(847) 377-3380 or (847) 377-3209.**

Q: What precautions are being taken within the courthouse?

A:

- Masks are required in the courthouse
- Only parties involved in the case are allowed into the law library
- Social Distancing markers are present
- Hand Sanitizer stations are set up
- Zoom stations are cleaned after every use
- Signs with CDC recommendations are posted

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019
(COVID-19)

You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Practice social distancing by putting space between yourself & others.
- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.

 [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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CRIMINAL CASES

Q: Are criminal trials still being held?

A: Trials in the criminal division are continued until further order of the court

CIVIL CASES

Q: Are trials being held in the civil division?

A: All bench trials (before a judge) that were scheduled for before June 1, 2020, are cancelled. A new remote court date will be scheduled for the purpose of resetting trial dates.

Q: The parties in my family or civil case are in agreement; are we able to submit a proposed agreed order for the judge's review?

A: Yes, proposed agreed orders should be submitted via email to the assigned courtroom email (see AO 20-42). If the assigned judge approves of the proposed agreed order, it will then be signed and sent back to the parties.

Q: Can I send questions or information to the assigned courtroom email?

A: Ex-Parte communication (communication between only one party and the judge) is strictly prohibited. The courtroom emails are only to be used to submit proposed orders. If you have questions about your case, call the Clerk of the Circuit Court at **(847) 377-3380 or (847) 377-3209**.

Q: Will the Lake County Sheriff's Department proceed with the execution of eviction orders?

A: No pursuant to Governor Pritzker Executive Order that stayed the execution of eviction orders.

Q: A loved one has passed away (decedent), and their estate needs to be opened or closed; can this be accomplished without a court appearance?

A: Yes, but only if the estate is uncontested See attached Administrative Order 20-21 for an outline of these procedures.

FAMILY CASES

Q: The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted my scheduled parenting time; should I return to court to address this?

A: Court ordered parenting time is not changed because of the “Stay at Home Order.”

- Parents are expected act in good faith and make changes that are in the best interest of the child.
- Any changes should be confirmed in writing.
- Changes to parenting are NOT considered emergencies unless: there is an imminent and substantial threat to a child’s health or safety, AND you have enough facts to support this claim of emergency.

Q: What if I was ordered to attend a parenting class?

A: The College of Lake County is still offering the course online. Email judicialservices@clcollinois.edu for more information and to register.

Q: Are trials in the family division being held?

A: All trials that were scheduled for before June 1, 2020, are cancelled. A new remote court date will be scheduled for the purpose of resetting trial dates.