

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT)

FILED

AUG 03 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 21-23

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CIRCUIT COURT OF LAKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, courtroom T-020 is a specialized courtroom with the highest security in the 19th Judicial Circuit where, among other court business, initial court appearances are made, bond hearings are conducted, arrest and search warrants are issued, and where unpredictable and sometimes dangerous situations are encountered involving in-custody as well as out-of-custody defendants and witnesses; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to securely separate members of the public from the court participants in this specialized courtroom while still maintaining open access to court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, there is no "jury box" or other separate area within or adjacent to the "well" of courtroom T-020 located beyond the high security doors and windows that surround the environs of the courtroom and prisoner holding area; and

WHEREAS, the safety of judges, attorneys, defendants, law enforcement officers, interested parties, witnesses, court staff, and the public during court proceedings is an essential and paramount concern;

NOW THEREFORE, in order to continue to ensure the integrity of the judicial process and the orderly and safe transaction of court business in courtroom T-020 while simultaneously ensuring the access of the public and news media to all proceedings,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, Administrative Order 15-03 is vacated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, unless compelling circumstances are found to exist by the judge presiding in T-020, only judges, law enforcement officers, attorneys, court staff, court clerks, probation officers, witnesses and defendants who are necessary to the proceedings before the court or about to be before the court may be within the "well area" of courtroom T-020 beyond its secured doors while court is in session.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, the front row of the spectator gallery adjacent to the window that overlooks the "well area" of this courtroom shall be designated as reserved for the use of members of the news media when members of the media are present in the gallery. Appropriate signage shall be conspicuously placed in the

gallery to ensure that persons in the gallery are aware of the reserved use of the first row by the news media.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, notwithstanding the previous paragraph, if in his or her opinion the Chief Judge believes that a case is of such a high-profile nature that the interest of justice may be compromised by reserving the front row of the spectator row for the news media, the Chief Judge may temporarily suspend the seating arrangements articulated in the previous paragraph and designate the spectator seating as the Chief Judge deems appropriate. Court Security will be informed by the Chief Judge when alternative seating is necessary, and Court Security will be charged with carrying out the directions of the Chief Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, all judges presiding from time to time in courtroom T-020 shall ensure that the sound system is turned on at sufficient volume to permit those in the galley area to hear all public proceedings while court is in session.

DATED this 3rd day of August, 2021.

ENTERED:



DIANE E. WINTER,
Chief Judge