

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 )  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT )

FILED

JAN 25 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 22-08

Eric Cartwright Weinstein  
**CIRCUIT CLERK**

**NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CIRCUIT COURT OF LAKE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Pritzker declared a State of Emergency in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and later the Governor prohibited the commencement and enforcement of certain residential eviction orders by Executive Order. Further, the U.S. Congress passed, and the President of the United States signed into law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (P.L. 116-136) and the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2). These acts cumulatively deployed over one billion dollars to Illinois renters and landlords in the forms of rental assistance, housing counseling, legal aid, and mediation service to prevent evictions and provide financial relief to landlords:

WHEREAS, the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit established an Eviction Mediation Program that is administered and operated by designated judicial staff of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, effective May 17, 2021, the General Assembly automatically sealed court files of residential evictions commenced during the "COVID-19 emergency and economic recovery period" (March 9, 2020, through March 31, 2022). See 735 ILCS 5/9-122(b) (incorporating the exceptions listed in subsections (d) and (e) of 735 ILCS 5/9-121.5); and,

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2022, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 8 – Case and Document Accessibility, adopted September 29, 2021, through its definitions of case and document access levels, amended the case status of residential eviction cases from that of sealed to impounded; and

WHEREFORE, the undersigned, as Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the Court's inherent authority hereby Orders:

That the judicial staff assigned to administer and operate the Eviction Mediation Program, as designated by the Chief Judge, shall have access to impounded and/or sealed eviction case files and information to facilitate the Eviction Mediation Program for the Court.

DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

ENTERED:



MARK L. LEVITT,  
Chief Judge