

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
FOURTH AMENDED GENERAL ORDER 20-01**

**JUNE 15, 2020**

**IN RE: COVID-19 PUBLIC EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Illinois has declared a public health emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised public and private entities to take precautions in order to reduce the spread of the virus, the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois recognizes the need to take measures to effectuate these goals, while also continuing to fulfill its mission and keep both its civil and criminal court functions operating.

NOW THEREFORE, this Fourth Amended General Order 20-01 amends and supersedes the Third Amended General Order entered on May 21, 2020, related to proceedings before this Court, the use of video and teleconferencing, and the operation of the federal courthouses in the District. To protect the public health, reduce the size of public gatherings, and reduce any non-essential travel, the Court hereby adopts the following measures to effectuate these goals, effective immediately and until July 17, 2020, or further Order of the Court:

1. Access to the federal courthouses in Peoria, Springfield, and Urbana will be limited, and operations of the District Court, Bankruptcy Court, and the Probation and Pretrial Services will be altered accordingly. The access to court operations in the Rock Island Division, temporarily relocated in Davenport, will also be limited. Members of the public seeking non-hearing related access to the courthouses should contact the Clerk's office for public operating hours.
  - a. Peoria Division: 309-671-7117
  - b. Rock Island Division: 309-793-5778
  - c. Springfield Division: 217-492-4020
  - d. Urbana Division: 217-373-5830
2. All persons seeking entry to, or occupying any of the District's courthouses, must wear a face cover or mask in the public areas of the courthouses and maintain six feet of physical distance from other persons whenever possible. The face covering or mask must always completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth. Personnel working in a private office or workspace that permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons may temporarily remove the face covering or masks. Individuals who provide medical documentation that they are unable to wear a face covering will be excepted from this requirement. Individuals are expected to read and follow all posted safety signage.
3. All filings should be made electronically via CM/ECF. For those persons without access to the Court's electronic filing system, filings for District Court and Bankruptcy Court should be submitted via United States Mail to the relevant divisional mailing address or to a drop box located in each location. Payments by

check or money order will be accepted via United States Mail or the courthouse drop boxes. Cash payments will not be accepted during the effective period of this Order. No deliveries may be made to chambers.

4. General Order 20-02 dated March 26, 2020, allowing non-incarcerated pro se litigants the option to submit filings via email while complying with the terms of the Order shall remain in effect through July 17, 2020.
5. All public gatherings, including Naturalization Ceremonies, are suspended during the effective period of this Order.
6. In the immediate future, it will not be possible to summon a pool of potential jurors and conduct a jury trial in a manner that does not expose potential jurors, counsel, court staff, and litigants to substantial and unacceptable health risks, specifically, the danger of becoming infected with COVID-19. For an extended time, it is likely that a significant number of potential jurors may request that their service on a jury be deferred or excused for reasons related to COVID-19. Therefore, all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before July 17, 2020, are continued and shall be rescheduled by the presiding judge to a date after July 17, 2020.
7. All Petty Offense (CVB) proceedings are continued and shall be rescheduled by the presiding judge to a date after July 17, 2020.
8. All civil hearings, including settlement conferences, shall be conducted by telephone or video teleconference.
9. In criminal proceedings:
  - a. The measures set forth in General Order 20-03 dated April 1, 2020, shall continue to be in effect, and the Court will continue the use of video conferencing, or telephone conferencing if video conferencing is not reasonably available, as provided therein;
  - b. When reviewing a complaint or deciding whether to issue a warrant or summons, judges shall do so by reliable electronic means, rather than in person, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 4.1; and
  - c. Motions to continue in-person criminal hearings shall be made by written motion no less than three (3) days prior to the scheduled hearing and setting forth in the body of the motion 1) whether the opposing party agrees to the continuance; 2) the reasons for the continuance; and 3) why the ends of justice outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial.

In criminal cases, the Court finds that the time period of any continuance entered from the date of this Order through July 17, 2020, as a result of this Order shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), as the Court finds that the ends of justice served by taking that action outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial, given the need to protect the health and safety of defendants, their counsel, prosecutors, court staff, and the public by reducing the number of in-person hearings to the fullest extent possible.

Entered for the Court:

s/ Sara Darrow

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Hon. Sara Darrow  
Chief United States District Judge