

**FILED**  
NOV 20 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

*Kimberly A. Ball*  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OGLE COUNTY

**COPY**

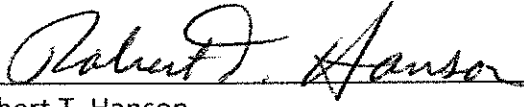
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 - 25  
TEMPORARY ORDER - COVID-19 PROCEDURE

Pursuant to the Illinois Supreme Court's March 17, 2020 Order MR 303070 In Re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency, the Supreme Court Order of May 20, 2020 allowing Circuit Courts to step back from reopening plans as dictated by local conditions and the recent growth of COVID-19 in Ogle County, effective immediately and until further order of the Court:

1. **Masks/Face Coverings.** All persons, including attorneys, must wear a face mask or face covering in public areas of the Ogle County Judicial Center. This provision does not apply to any person who is: under the age of 2; incapacitated; having trouble breathing; or unable to remove the mask or face covering without assistance. Persons required to speak in the course of a court proceeding may be directed to remove a mask or face covering when speaking if necessary to make a record. Social distancing per CDC guidelines must be maintained.
2. **Represented Parties Excused.** Unless ordered by the judge or directed by their attorney, parties in civil and family cases are strongly encouraged not to attend routine court hearings. Attorneys should advise their clients not to attend court unless their attendance is strictly necessary given the nature of the hearing at issue. In criminal cases, judges should discuss with attorneys whether defendant's presence might be excused.
3. **Additional Persons Discouraged.** Litigants are strongly discouraged from bringing any other person with them to the courthouse unless they are a witness in a court proceeding.
4. **Virtual Proceedings.** The Court will operate with increased reliance on virtual proceedings and hearing pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 45 and 241. Attorneys and parties who are offered the opportunity to appear virtually are strongly encouraged to do so.

5. **Jury Trials.** Effective November 20, 2020, and until February 1, 2021, no jury trials may proceed in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court. Dates set for jury trial on any judge's calendar falling prior to February 1, 2021, remain on the judge's calendar at the judge's discretion, but they may not proceed to jury trial. Pursuant to the Supreme Court's order, in criminal trial the period of delay shall not be attributable to either the State or the defendant for purpose of 725 ILCS 5/103-5. Grand juries are also continued to after February 1, 2021.
  
6. **Individual Judge.** Attorneys and parties should be aware that individual judges may issue their own guidance or practices in certain courtrooms.

ENTERED: Nov 20, 2020

  
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Robert T. Hanson  
Presiding Judge