

Conducting Court during the Pandemic

Due to the COVID-19 concerns in effect on June 1, 2020, the following shall be the standing order and is effective until further order:

1. Jury Trials – Jury trials will resume on June 15, 2020. Until further order, jurors summoned in for said trials shall be directed to report at staggering times throughout the day so as to abide by social distancing. Said trials will comply with the CDC and Boone County Health Department guidelines (which currently recommend use of masks and six foot bubbles); said trials shall also comply with General Order 1.03 entered by Chief Judge Eugene Doherty regarding use of masks.
2. In-Person Court Matters – All other matters heard by the Court will resume June 1, 2020. For all in-person appearances, said court appearances shall comply with the CDC and Boone County Health Department guidelines, as well as Administrative Order 2020-21 and General Order 1.03. The Court also encourages uses of remote proceedings, such as Zoom. Further, the Court encourages the use of over-the-counter agreed orders and Case Management Orders to avoid in-person court appearances (see Paragraph 6 herein). In-person court appearances should be limited to meaningful court matters in which the Court is expected to rule on contested matters, hear plea agreements, and conduct evidentiary hearings, sentencing hearings and trials. Represented defendants shall not be required to attend the court proceeding unless the Court orders otherwise.
3. Status Calls – The court will, generally, conduct its felony status call, weekly, on Thursday morning and Friday morning; the Court will, generally, conduct its juvenile call on Monday mornings of non-jury weeks. Each call will be broken down into eleven 15 minute time slots with the first one being at 9:00 am and the last time slot beginning at 11:45 am. The Circuit Clerk and her deputies shall schedule no more than three cases per time slot. The Court reserves the right to assign a case to an 8:45 time slot but only on an emergency basis; the Circuit Clerk has no authority to set a matter in the 8:45 time slot without judicial permission. The attorneys and the defendant (if his/her presence is ordered) are expected to appear in a timely fashion and if the defendant and/or attorney does not appear on time, the Court reserves the right (in addition to other remedies) to set the matter over to a new court date and issue a rule to show cause as to why the defendant/attorney did not appear on time.
4. Special Set Matters – The Court shall set all matters that cannot be fully addressed on a status call to a specially set time and date. When specially setting the matter, the parties shall provide the Court with an estimate of the amount of time the matter will take. Once the matter is specially set, the clerks shall not set any other matters during that time slot.

5. Public Courtroom – The Court may limit access to the public courtroom, in accordance with the requirements set out in *Waller v. Georgia*, 467 U.S. 39 (1984), if the Court finds doing so is necessary to abide by the social distancing requirements.
6. Case Management Orders – The Court encourages the litigants to tender proposed Case Management Orders on a form as set out as Appendix A attached hereto. The Court reserves the right to amend or reject the Case Management Order if the Court believes justice or proper case management requires such. Unless good cause exists, the Case Management Order shall be tendered to the Court at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled court date. If such order is approved, the attorneys and parties need not report to the scheduled court date. Every case management order shall include a new court date. The attorneys are responsible for notifying their client as to all court dates; the Circuit Clerk has no obligation to send notice. The submission to the Court shall be by e-filing.
7. Remote Hearings – The parties are encouraged to use remote proceedings. The Court recognizes that there are certain impediments to conducting some types of matters including rights protected by the Federal and State Constitution, state statutes, and Illinois Supreme Court rules. The Court shall admonish the defendant or victim of any such rights and accept a knowing and voluntary waiver of said rights on the record. All remote hearings shall require the Court to appear in person in a courtroom.