

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STATE OF ILLINOIS
PEORIA, TAZEWELL, MARSHALL, PUTNAM, AND STARK COUNTIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-02

*This A.O. will supersede, as of February 1, 2021, all prior circuit-wide A.O.'s (2020 - 13, 2020-15, 2020-21 and 2020-24) on the Covid-19 pandemic topic, so as to provide clarity and reduce confusion.

WHEREAS, for those reasons mentioned in prior 10th Circuit Administrative Orders entered in March and April of 2020, and reference therein to various Orders of the Illinois Supreme Court (M.R. 30370), all dealing with the global Covid-19 and after consultation/input with and from various local justice partners, including but not limited to, local public health departments, State's Attorneys, Public Defenders, County Administration, Sheriffs, Jury administrators, Circuit Clerks, bar association officer(s), I.T. reps, Probation reps, Court Administration, and;

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to update prior Administrative Orders, taking access to justice and public safety into account and upon considering guidance received from, but not limited to, the Illinois Supreme Court (e.g., M.R. Order 30370 of May 20, 2020);

WHEREFORE, the undersigned, as Chief of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, does:

ORDER

1. Courtrooms. All courtrooms (14 in Peoria, 6 in Tazewell and 1 each in Marshall, Putnam and Stark) are open for court business, as described herein, with a hybrid of remote and in person hearings with a goal of serving the public in person while using remote access for routine matters, subject to the oversight of the Chief Judge or respective Presiding Judge in each County.

2. Loosening Limitations. In-person access to courthouses for courtroom business will be allowed. Each County and courtroom are different and will have their own schedule as approved by its respective judge who have been directed by the undersigned to gradually allow more in person matters. Remote hearings are still encouraged where feasible as approved by its respective judge. The goal is to gradually increase in person access in the courtroom or their environs, all complying with those safety precautions described in paragraph 6 below. The situation will be re-evaluated regularly as it continues to evolve considering the vaccine distribution, COVID-19 metrics, and input from stakeholders including local public health departments. Contact the individual courtroom/clerk for details.

Spectator, non-litigant/non-attorney and guest appearances in the courthouse for court business is still discouraged.

Specific standing Orders of individual courtroom procedure may be in existence and published on the Tenth's website at www.10thcircuitcourtil.org. If none, attorneys/self-represented litigants may communicate with each individual courtroom as before pandemic concerning matters of procedure and scheduling.

3. Screening. A health screening by County or Court officials may be in place at the security checkpoint or point of destination for anyone attempting entry into various courthouses, which may include, but might not necessarily be limited to: a written or verbal questionnaire, a temperature check, an identification check (to assist with possible later contact tracing), or the like.

4. Entry allowed. Person's with courthouse business will be allowed access to the courthouses in the 10th Circuit unless:

- a. Flu-like symptoms or illness, including, but not limited to, fever, cough, or shortness of breath;
- b. Been diagnosed with Covid-19, or someone close to you has within past 14 days.
- c. Been directed to quarantine, self-isolate or self-monitor at home by a medical provider;
- d. Traveled within past 21 days to any country designated by the CDC as a high-risk location for Covid-19, or had close contact with anyone who has, within the past 21 days.

Anyone turned away or refusing the screening will be asked to leave his/her name, and contact address with security, so that this information can be passed along to the respective courtroom.

5. Court date inquiries. It is always a litigant's responsibility to know of his/her next court date and, a Self-represented litigant (SRL), to keep the Circuit Clerk advised of your current address. The Courts will make reasonable accommodations while this A.O. is in effect. To inquire as to your next court date, talk to your attorney, or if SRL, you may contact:

- a. Peoria County: www.judicial.peoriacounty.org/Portal or (309) 672-6984.
- b. Tazewell County: www.tazewellcountyil.com click online court records link or (309) 477-2218 for traffic and (309) 477-2214 for all other case types.
- c. Marshall County: www.judici.com (select Marshall County) or (309) 246-6435.
- d. Putnam County: www.judici.com (select Putnam County) or (815) 925-7016.
- e. Stark County: www.judici.com (select Stark County) or (309) 286-5941.

6. Precautions. Face coverings are required for public entry into and within the public spaces of the Peoria courthouse and within courtrooms for the public if social distancing cannot be maintained, subject to exemptions for court personnel and as directed by the judge of the respective courtroom. Face coverings may be required in other courthouse/courtrooms of the Tenth as directed by the respective Presiding Judge. Frequently touched surfaces will be regularly cleaned, but the public is encouraged to wash hands before and after appearances, maintain social distancing, make use of hand sanitizer in courtrooms, follow directional signage, and avoid touching your face.

7. Grand Jury. Grand Jury proceedings will continue in Peoria, Tazewell, Marshall, Putnam, and Stark Counties.

8. Jury trials. Jury trials for Peoria County will be limited to two potential trials per week and in the remaining Counties per schedule of the respective Presiding Judge. Any courtroom judge requesting a jury trial to proceed will submit such case(s) to the Chief Judge in advance who will then prioritize which case has the number 1 setting and which case will be a back-up. In-custody criminal cases will have priority over other cases. All other trial requests will be continued. To the extent speedy trial implications are involved, any such continuance, per Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370 and amendments thereto, will be excluded from speedy trial computations and statutory time restrictions applicable to shall be tolled until further Order of the Supreme Court.

9. Sheriff. The Sheriff of Peoria County continues to accept jail sentences of under 30 days. Administrative Order 2020-07 shall remain in effect.

10. Probation. Probationers should continue to follow directives of your probation officer.

11. Weddings. Marriages in Peoria County will continue by video conference with instructions provided at time of license application, unless otherwise determined by the respective judge. Marriages in the other courthouses may be scheduled as permitted by the respective judge and County/Circuit Clerk. Unless otherwise Ordered, only the couple to be married will be allowed in the Courthouse.

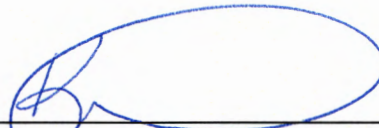
12. Law Library/Self-Help Center. In Tazewell, appointments may be scheduled with the law librarian at (309) 477-5790. In Peoria, the Law Library/Self-Help Center is open. For those that wish to use the **two** computers for online research or completing forms and/or e-filing documents, please contact Court Administration at 672-6084, to schedule an appointment. Free online legal research is available to all patrons and attorneys. Go to our website www.10thcircuitcourtil.org and click on the link for COVID-19 INFORMATION to find additional information available to provide assistance.

13. Visitation Center. The Visitation Center is open. Go to our website www.10thcircuitcourtil.org for more information.

14. Effective Date. This A.O. will take effect February 1, 2021. For updates on these and other matters involving Circuit Court operations, please visit: www.10thjudicialcircuit.org and click on the COVID-19 INFORMATION link at the top of the page.

ENTERED:

1/22/21



Katherine S. Gorman, Chief Circuit Judge