

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Re: General Administrative Order No. 2020-06 (amended)
COVID-19 Emergency Measures, Modification of Operations

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the current COVID-19 social distancing guidelines in which limit the number of detainees that may safely be transported to Municipal Department courthouses, including branch courts in the City of Chicago, Cook County is amended to extend the effective date to **September 13, 2021**.

Summary: This Order is designed to amend the original order to clarify the ongoing support of remote court appearances as a critical part of meeting the current and changing needs of our society and as a means of improving access to justice through the courts of this State and reducing its cost in time and money to litigants, the bar, and other participants.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Ill. S. Ct., Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency/Social Distancing, M.R. 30370 (eff. June 30, 2021) and guidance received June 14, 2021, from the Cook County Dept. of Public Health, the requirement of six (6) feet of distance between persons in the courtroom is modified to require **three (3) feet** of distance between persons in the courtroom;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in pursuit of the best practices for conducting court proceedings in person, remotely, or in a hybrid of the two in the First Municipal court, conducting proceedings with all persons physically present in court shall be preferred, with the understanding that each impending court proceeding may be evaluated to determine whether it is appropriate for some or all participants to appear remotely;

First Municipal Criminal Cases.

1. Bench trials shall be held, and may be conducted by videoconference with all participants physically present in court, or by a combination of those means;
2. Jury trials shall be held only with all participants physically present in court;
3. The sheriff shall take necessary and appropriate measures to ensure the following:
 - a. At no times shall there be more persons in the courtroom than the number established under guidance by the appropriate public health authorities;
 - b. At all times, all persons in the courtroom shall maintain a minimum distance of **three (3) feet** from all other persons in the courtroom.
4. **Bail Review.** All prosecutors and defense counsel shall review their cases upon entry of this order, and appropriate intervals thereafter, to determine whether a change in circumstances may support a change in bail conditions that would enable a defendant to secure his or her release from the jail; priority shall be given to motions to reduce bail in agreed orders.

Factors to be considered, include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Persons at elevated risk of contracting COVID-19, either because of age or underlying health conditions
- (2) Pregnant women
- (3) Persons confined only on misdemeanor charges
- (4) Persons confined because they cannot afford the monetary bond set in their cases
- (5) Persons released on electronic monitoring who have been compliant with the conditions of their bail
- (6) Persons confined on a warrant or alleged violation of parole or probation and who are not charged with or suspected of a crime of violence
- (7) Persons sentenced to imprisonment in the Cook County Jail
- (8) Persons eligible for release on electronic monitoring who have no place to stay

(9) Agreed orders in other circumstances.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order supersedes Cook County Cir. Ct. G.A.O. 2020-02 (eff. Oct. 17, 2020); and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, except as otherwise ordered herein, this order is effective **July 23, 2021**.

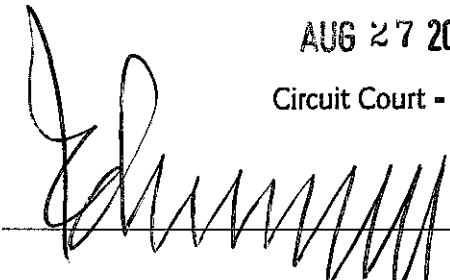
Dated this 27th day of August, 2021.

ENTERED:

Presiding Judge E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.

AUG 27 2021

Circuit Court - 1624



E. KENNETH WRIGHT, JR.
PRESIDING JUDGE
FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT