



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



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For Immediate Release

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22nd Judicial Circuit Announces Extended Media Coverage Approval

(Woodstock, IL) The 22nd Judicial Circuit has been approved by the Illinois Supreme Court, and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts to allow Extended Media Coverage (EMC) in the courtrooms of the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center. The approval allows members of the media to file requests to bring cameras into the courtroom for still photography and video recording of the proceedings. Local Court Rule 1.15.5 has been adopted by the Circuit Judges of the 22nd Judicial Circuit, which outlines the EMC program and will become effective on January 1, 2020.

In prosecutions for sexual abuse, or when sexual abuse is an essential element of a proceeding, there shall be no Extended Media Coverage of the testimony of a victim unless the testifying victim consents. Additionally, no Extended Media Coverage shall be allowed in any matter involving juvenile, dissolution, adoption, child custody, visitation, family law, criminal or civil pretrial hearings regarding suppression or admission of evidence, specialty criminal courts, or trade secret issues. Jurors may not be photographed or recorded until they are no longer subject to service and only then with their consent.

In order to coordinate the EMC program, Kristen Zambo, from Shaw Media, was selected by members of the media and approved by Chief Judge James S. Cowlin, to serve as the Media Coordinator. The Media Coordinator is responsible for receiving requests for media coverage and filing those requests with the Circuit Clerk of the Court. Parties to a case where EMC has been requested have the ability to object to the coverage and a hearing will be held on the matter. All requests for EMC must be filed with the Circuit Clerk at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the hearing. Additionally, Ms. Zambo will collaborate with James "Dan" Wallis, Trial Court Administrator, who will fulfill the role of Court Media Liaison.

The mission of the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is to be the guardian of life, liberty and property to all seeking access to justice, by adhering to practices that ensure equality, fairness and confidence in the judiciary.

In total, twenty (20) of the twenty-four (24) Circuit Court's in Illinois have been approved for EMC, including Cook County. The EMC program was approved by the Illinois Supreme Court by order M.R. 2634 on February 22, 2016.

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