

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

IN RE THE MATTER OF PROCEDURES IN )	Effective June 2, 2020
COURTROOM 301, CRIMINAL DIVISION, )	
PURSUANT TO THE CONTINUITY OF )	<b>Courtroom 301, Criminal Division</b>
OPERATIONS COVID-19 PROTOCOLS )	<b><u>Standing Order 2020-01</u></b>

**STANDING ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, the Corona Virus known as COVID-19 has caused the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit to modify its operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order on May 20, 2020, authorizing each court to return to hearing court matters on June 1, 2020, whether in person or remotely, according to a schedule to be adopted for each county by the chief judge in each circuit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Supreme Court directed chief judges to consider the *Supreme Court Guidelines for Resuming Illinois Judicial-Branch Operations during COVID 19* pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, this Circuit’s Chief Judge entered Administrative Order 2020-11 authorizing and directing the Court, effective June 1, 2020, to begin hearing all matters in a manner procedurally consistent with the Circuit’s *Continuity of Operations Reestablishment Plan*; and


**WHEREAS**, said Administrative Order states, in part, “Litigants, attorneys, or others may remove their face covering or mask when they are directed to do so by the judge presiding. Judges shall exercise their discretion whether to wear a face covering or mask while conducting court proceedings;” and

**WHEREAS**, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit’s *Continuity of Operations Reestablishment Plan* incorporates guidelines to operate virtual courtroom proceedings since the use of such proceedings, when possible, is a practical solution for the court to operate in a safe and efficient manner; and

**THEREFORE**, Judge Tiffany E. Davis, presiding judge of Courtroom 301, orders that certain proceedings in Courtroom 301 shall be conducted as follows:

1. All persons entering Courtroom 301 shall wear a face mask or face covering. The Judge shall exercise his or her discretion in whether to wear a face covering or mask while conducting court proceedings pursuant to the Chief Judge’s Administrative order;

2. Jurors shall wear masks or face coverings unless permitted to remove them as directed by the Court during voir dire or while addressing the Court;
3. Witnesses shall wear masks or face coverings unless permitted to remove them as directed by the court during testimony;
4. Attorneys may remove masks or face coverings, at the discretion of the court, *when conducting voir dire, during the examination of witnesses, and during arguments or sidebars as long as they maintain social distancing of 6 feet or greater from others.*
5. In cases set for plea or status, the defendant's first court appearance after lockdown shall be waived. If the matter is set for trial, the Defendant must appear in order to either proceed or reset the trial date and is subject to the trial in absentia admonishment.
6. The Court will otherwise continue to exercise discretion on whether or not to waive the defendant's appearance on subsequent court dates. Defendants shall appear in person, not remotely, for fully negotiated or blind pleas and for all evidentiary hearings, trials, or sentencing.
7. A cap may be set by the clerk's office on the number of cases set for plea or status on any given court date;
8. Attorneys may appear remotely on cases set for status trial date or for non-evidentiary hearings on motions involving argument only without testimony (example, request to travel outside of Illinois);
9. To appear remotely in CR 301, please e-file an appropriate written motion with notice to both parties requesting to do so at least 3 days prior to the scheduled court date. You may use the link: <https://zoom.us/my/mchenrycourtroom301> or the Meeting Identification Number: 261 291 6349 at the appropriate time;
10. In order to minimize the number of people in the courtroom at a given time, the Court Security Officers may request persons to wait in the hallway while properly socially distanced. The Court will first hear cases of attorneys and litigants timely appearing in-person. The Court will then hear the cases of attorneys appearing remotely.
11. Attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and members of the public shall maintain appropriate social distancing of six feet whenever practicable.

  
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Circuit Judge Tiffany Davis

6-2-2020  
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Dated