

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED

NOV 24 2020

KATHERINE M. KEEFE
McHENRY CTY. CIR. CLK.

IN RE THE MATTER OF PROCEDURES IN) Effective November 25, 2020
COURTROOM 303, CRIMINAL DIVISION,)
PURSUANT TO THE CONTINUITY OF) **Courtroom 303, Civil Division**
OPERATIONS COVID-19 PROTOCOLS) **Standing Order 2020-02**

STANDING ORDER

WHEREAS, the Corona Virus known as COVID-19 has caused the 22nd 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 22nd 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;

THEREFORE, Judge Mark R. Gerhardt, presiding judge of Courtroom 303, orders that certain proceedings in Courtroom 303 shall be conducted as follows:

1. Everyone entering Courtroom 303 shall wear a face mask or face covering.

2. Jurors shall wear masks or face coverings, *except when answering questions during voir dire*;
3. Witnesses shall wear masks or face coverings, *except as directed when testifying*;
4. Attorneys may remove masks or face coverings when *addressing the court; examining witnesses, making arguments or objections, and when conducting voir dire*;
5. A cap shall be set on the number of cases set for plea or status on a given date;
6. Attorneys and defendants may appear remotely in cases set for plea/status. In addition, attorneys and defendants may appear remotely for hearings on motions involving argument only;
7. With a properly executed "Waiver of In Court Appearance", the Court, in its discretion, will allow a properly admonished defendant to enter a fully negotiated plea remotely via Zoom;
8. To appear remotely in CR 303, use the link: <https://zoom.us/my/mchencourtroom303> or the Meeting Identification Number: 362 690 9114;
9. In order to minimize the number of people in the courtroom at a given time, the Court shall first hear the cases of attorneys and litigants appearing in-person, so that they can finish their business before the Court and leave the courtroom. The Court shall then hear the cases of attorneys and defendants appearing remotely.
10. Attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and members of the public shall maintain appropriate social distancing whenever practicable.

DATED: 11/24/2020



Mark R. Gerhardt
Circuit Judge