

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2014-03
22nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PILOT PROJECT FOR TELEPHONIC COURTROOM APPEARANCES

In a continuing effort to increase efficiencies and provide for reduced litigation costs, and pursuant to Rule 185 of the Supreme Court of Illinois, the Court finds that attorneys and parties should be able to participate in certain courtroom proceedings by telephone.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that effective Monday, March 31, 2014, a pilot project for telephone courtroom appearances shall be engaged until further Order, in accordance with the following provisions:

A. Telephone Appearances

1. Telephone appearances shall be allowed for attorneys and parties at the discretion of each Judge in Courtrooms 201 and 202, in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Administrative Order.
2. Existing rules and procedures regarding the making of the record (i.e. through the Electronic Recording Service of the Court) shall apply to hearings at which telephone appearances are made.

B. Scheduling and Notice

1. No telephonic appearance will be allowed unless it is made through CourtCall, LLC ("CourtCall"), which is an independent conference servicing company approved by the Court, or through a specific Order entered in a particular case by the Court.
2. CourtCall will facilitate telephonic appearances of persons at hearings which have already been scheduled by regular means with the Office of the McHenry Court Circuit Clerk. *See* Local Rule 2.01(f). CourtCall does not set or calendar hearings for the Court. Generally, CourtCall can be utilized for routine matters, but actual allowed use will be set by each Judge and made available through CourtCall.
3. Telephone appearances must be arranged by contacting CourtCall by telephone at (888) 882-6878 or on-line at www.courtcall.com no later than 4:00 p.m. (Woodstock, Illinois, time) on the second court day preceding a hearing date. CourtCall will provide persons with written

confirmation of their telephone appearance and a number to call to make the telephone appearance.

4. Persons electing to make a telephone appearance shall notify all parties of the same contemporaneously with any written notice of motion or as soon as possible prior to the appearance. Noting in this rule shall be construed as modifying the applicability of any and all other applicable rules.

C. Appearance Procedure

1. It is the responsibility of the person making a telephonic appearance to dial into the CourtCall system no later than five (5) minutes prior to any scheduled hearing, and to check in with the CourtCall operator.

2. Persons appearing telephonically shall state their name for the record when they speak and shall participate in the appearance with the same degree of courtesy and courtroom etiquette as is required for a personal appearance.

3. To ensure the quality of the record, the use of cellular phones, speakerphones or phones in public places is discouraged and may be prohibited.

4. If a person schedules a telephone appearance and then fails to respond when the matter is called, the Court may pass the matter or may treat the failure to respond as a failure to appear. Scheduling simultaneous telephone appearances in multiple courts does not excuse a failure to appear. The Court will attempt to reasonably accommodate persons attempting to appear before the Court in different courtrooms during contemporaneous calls.

D. Costs

By using the services of CourtCall, individuals knowingly enter into a service agreement with CourtCall, are subject to follow any additional terms and conditions reasonably imposed by CourtCall, and shall be solely responsible for any and all costs or other expenses incurred for the services provided through CourtCall. Under no circumstance shall the Court bear any cost for any such telephone appearance.

E. Rejection and Suspension of Privileges

1. The fact that a telephonic appearance is scheduled with CourtCall shall not be construed as a determination that the telephonic appearance is permitted by the Court. Attorneys and parties and counsel are solely responsible for compliance with the Court's rules and procedures

for telephonic appearances. The Court reserves the right, at any time, to reject any telephonic appearance in violation with the rule or as otherwise necessary for the administration of justice.

2. The Court reserves the right and sole discretion to suspend any person's ability to appear through CourtCall.

F. Video and Other Electronic Technology

The technology utilized under this rule may include video and other electronic technology.

G. Proceedings Outside Courtrooms

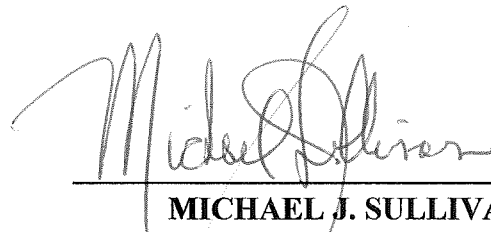
The Judges handling proceedings in said courtrooms may extend the use of CourtCall under these provisions beyond the confines of their courtrooms to include arbitration hearings, mediation and settlement conferences. The authorization for any such extended use of CourtCall shall be court order entered on notice to all parties to the proceeding prior to the date of the proceeding and which order shall specify the extended use permitted in the proceeding.

H. Modification

This project is exploratory in nature, and the provisions of this Administrative Order are subject to modification.

DATED:

March 12, 2014



MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
Chief Judge