

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR THE 5<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020- 26  
Authorizing A Text Message Notification Program for Vermilion County**

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Supreme Court adopted Supreme Court Rule 14 pertaining to text message notification programs and the Rule provides in relevant part:

(a) Any court or clerk of court may implement a text message notification program(s). Any text message notification program developed within a judicial circuit shall be approved by the Chief Circuit Judge prior to implementation.” (Supreme Court Rule 14); and

**WHEREAS**, the Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County implemented a text message notification program that utilizes text messaging and email notification of court dates and other information for court patrons who voluntarily apply or sign up for the program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Vermilion County text message notification program is designed to be a courtesy reminder of pending court dates and not a substitute for any notification required by Supreme Court Rule or statute to appear in court; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Circuit Judge having examined the text message program implemented by the Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County finds it to be in compliance with Supreme Court Rule 14.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. The Office of the Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County may operate its text message program in its current form as a courtesy reminder program and said program is approved.
2. The Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County shall have the discretion to determine the content and scope of the text message notification program. The text message notification program may include, without limitation, notifications and reminders regarding court, mediation, and arbitration dates; probation-related events; court-required appointments, events, deadlines, and activities; new court filings; and general court announcements.
3. The Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County shall have the discretion to determine who may participate in the text message notification program but shall not unlawfully discriminate in the use of that discretion.
4. The Vermilion County text message notification program shall afford participants the ability to opt out of the program at any time.

5. The Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County is authorized to collect mobile telephone information belonging to court patrons, including but not limited to telephone number and carrier, for the sole purpose of inclusion of that person in the text message notification program.
6. Mobile telephone information provided and collected for the purpose of inclusion in the Vermilion County text message notification program shall not be made part of the official public court record, shall be kept confidential, and shall not be utilized or disclosed for any other purpose.
7. Unless otherwise directed by Supreme Court Rule or statute, the Vermilion County text message notification program is a supplement and not a substitute for any notification required by Supreme Court Rule or statute.
8. Failure to participate in or receipt of a notification pursuant to the Vermilion County text message program shall not be considered or used as evidence against the person in any court proceeding including but not limited to default proceedings, criminal proceedings, and contempt proceedings.
9. **Miscellaneous.**
  - a. It is further ordered that this Administrative Order be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County, Illinois and be made available to the public.
  - b. The Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County is to post this Administrative Order on her website.
  - c. This Administrative Order is effective *instanter*.

**Dated:** this 29th day of December, 2020



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Mitchell K. Shick, Chief Circuit Judge