

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-6  
RE  
EMERGENCY COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The Circuit Court for Vermilion County in the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Illinois adopts the following Second Supplemental Administrative Order pertaining to emergency court operations during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19] pandemic:

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order - *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency*, MR. 30370, directing all courts to establish and periodically update temporary procedures to minimize potential exposure to and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on judicial operations, while continuing to provide access to justice, and further directed that all non-essential matters and proceedings be continued or, if feasible, conducted remotely; and on March 20, 2020 entered an Order authorizing the continuance of all civil and criminal jury trials for sixty (60) days, and suspending speedy trial terms during said time period. On that same day, the Chief Circuit Judge entered an Administrative Order continuing all civil and criminal jury trials within the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit for sixty (60) days, and suspending speedy trial terms during said period;

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Circuit Judge for Vermilion County has been granted temporary emergency administrative authority to enter orders affecting the general operation of the Rita B. Garman Vermilion County Courthouse pursuant to authority granted by the Chief Circuit Judge under Supreme Court Rule 21(b);

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, pursuant to said authorities, the Presiding Judge of Vermilion County entered Administrative Order No. 2020-1, directing that measures be taken in response to the pandemic, intending to balance health and safety concerns with the need to continue to provide essential court services to the citizens of the County; and on March 25, 2020 the Presiding Judge entered Administrative Order No. 2020-5 amending Administrative Order No. 2020-1 by adopting superseding provisions. All of these measures restricted access to the Rita B. Garman Vermilion County Courthouse; incorporated the use of videoconferencing and teleconferencing to minimize contact; followed social distancing practices; and temporarily suspended non-essential court functions through April 17, 2020, subject to discretionary exceptions authorized by the judge presiding over a specific case;

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of the State of Illinois issued Executive Order No. 8, ordering and directing all citizens of the State to remain at home or other place of residence unless performing an essential function; the terms and provisions of said Order were to be effective

until April 7, 2020, unless otherwise extended by further order; and on April 1, 2020 the Governor extended the term of said Executive Order until April 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Judge, acting on behalf of the Circuit Judges of Vermilion County, considers it to be in the best interests of the health and welfare of all courthouse employees and patrons, and the community at large, to further minimize in-person contact in an effort to impede the spread of COVID-19, by amending Administrative Order Nos. 2020-1 and 2020-5, and adopting the following superseding provisions:

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

1. **Effective Date:** This Second Supplemental Administrative Order is effective April 1, 2020 and its precautionary measures shall remain in effect through April 30, 2020 at 4:30 p.m., unless extended by further order of the court.
2. The provisions of Administrative Order Nos. 2020-1 and 2020-5, are hereby supplemented, and to the extent inconsistent herewith superseded. In all other respects, the provisions of Administrative Order Nos. 2020-1 and 2020-5 remain in full force and effect.
3. Courthouse operations will continue at a reduced capacity through April 30, 2020, performing only essential functions as delineated in Administrative Order No. 2020-5, unless extended by further order of the court. Court Administration, Probation and Court Services, and the Offices of the Circuit Clerk, State's Attorney, and Public Defender may continue to operate with reduced/rotating staff working on site. Elected office-holders and department heads may determine how best to implement staffing reductions/rotations within their respective offices on an as-needed basis, all pursuant to the County Board's temporary/emergency Covid 19 Personnel Policies as may be amended from time-to-time.
4. **Restrictions upon Entry into the Courthouse:** The provision of Supplemental Administrative Order No. 2020-5 that no member of the general public shall enter the Courthouse (beyond the Circuit Clerk's Office Lobby) beginning March 25, 2020 is extended through April 30, 2020 at 4:30 p.m., absent specific authorization from the court. State and County employees and elected officials essential to court operations (judges, court administration staff, deputy circuit clerks, state's attorney's staff, public defender staff, court security, court reporters and specialists, probation services staff, building and grounds staff, information technology staff, and the like), litigants, witnesses, and vendors` may enter the Courthouse during this time to conduct essential court business and/or operations, all subject to the health and travel restrictions contained in Administrative Order No. 2020-1.
5. **Additional Precautions Pertaining to Entry into the Courthouse:** During the term of this Second Supplemental Administrative Order, older adults and people who have severe

underlying chronic medical conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular or lung disease, long-term kidney disease, or a weakened immune system should exercise caution and discretion in determining whether to enter the Courthouse.

**6. Miscellaneous:**

- a. The court may issue further orders as necessary to address the circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including re-assessing the situation following the suspension period to determine whether normal operations may resume or additional suspension time is still required to avoid the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.
- b. The Clerk of the Circuit Court is to notify all parties of record by posting this Second Supplemental Administrative Order on its website and by other appropriate means.
- c. It is further ordered that this Second Supplemental Administrative Order be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County, Illinois and be made available to the public.
- d. This Second Supplemental Administrative Order is effective *instanter*.
- e. This Second Supplemental Administrative Order shall be posted upon the County's website.
- f. Dan Wallis, Trial Court Administrator of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit recently stated: "We want people to trust the judicial branch in good times. We want people to trust the judicial branch *even more* in bad times." This is one of those times to earn that trust.

**Dated:** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020



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Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy, Presiding Judge