

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
FOURTH AMENDED GENERAL ORDER 20-0012**

**May 26, 2020**

**IN RE: CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PUBLIC EMERGENCY**

Given the public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with guidance and orders from federal executive authorities, the State of Illinois, and local governments, it is hereby ORDERED:

Amended General Order 20-0012, entered on March 17, 2020; General Order 20-0014, entered on March 20, 2020; Second Amended General Order 20-0012, entered on March 30, 2020; and Third Amended General Order 20-0012, entered on April 24, 2020, are vacated and superseded by this Fourth Amended General Order. To protect the public health and welfare, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hereby orders, effective May 29, 2020:

**Court Remains Open**

1. This Court remains open and accessible, subject to the limitations and procedures set forth below.

**Civil Cases**

2. The Third Amended General Order 20-0012 extended certain deadlines by 28 days. This Fourth Amended General Order does not extend any deadlines in civil cases.
3. Civil case hearings, bench trials, and settlement conferences may be scheduled and conducted by the presiding judge by remote means. In-court hearings are limited to urgent matters that cannot be conducted remotely.
4. Civil jury trials will not be conducted before August 3, 2020, and trials set to begin before August 3, 2020, will be reset by the presiding judge.



### **Criminal Cases**

5. The Court recognizes and respects the right of criminal defendants, particularly those in pretrial detention, to a speedy and public trial under the Sixth Amendment. That said, the public health emergency requires that the following procedures be implemented in criminal cases:

- a) Grand juries shall continue to meet, with reasonable limits on grand jury sessions imposed by the Court in consultation with the U.S. Attorney's Office.
- b) Under Criminal Rule 4.1, a judge may review by reliable electronic means, rather than in person, a complaint, application for search warrant or trap/trace/pen register, application for wiretap, or application for any other warrant or order.
- c) Under Section 15002(b)(1) of the CARES Act, Pub. L. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281, the Chief Judge of this Court authorizes the use of videoconferencing, or teleconferencing if videoconferencing is not reasonably available, for the following proceedings, so long as the defendant gives written or verbal consent after consultation with counsel:
  - i. Detention hearings under 18 U.S.C. § 3142;
  - ii. Initial appearances under Criminal Rule 5;
  - iii. Preliminary hearings under Criminal Rule 5.1;
  - iv. Waivers of indictment under Criminal Rule 7(b);
  - v. Arraignments under Criminal Rule 10;
  - vi. Probation and supervised release revocation hearings under Criminal Rule 32.1;
  - vii. Pretrial release revocation hearings under 18 U.S.C. § 3148;
  - viii. Appearances under Criminal Rule 40;

- ix. Misdemeanor pleas and sentencings under Criminal Rule 43(b)(2); and
  - x. Juvenile proceedings under Title 18, Chapter 403, except for contested transfer hearings, juvenile delinquency adjudication, or trial proceedings.
- d) A defendant who does not object to detention shall, before the scheduled detention hearing, notify the presiding judge orally (through counsel) or in writing that the defendant has no objection to detention. The decision to not object is without prejudice to the defendant's right to later challenge detention and seek pretrial release.
- e) If the parties agree to invoke Section 15002(b)(2)(A) of the CARES Act to conduct a felony plea hearing or felony sentencing hearing by videoconferencing or teleconferencing, they shall notify the presiding judge, who will consult with the Chief Judge regarding the findings required by Section 15002(b)(2)(A). Felony plea hearings and felony sentencing hearings may be held remotely by teleconferencing only if videoconferencing is not reasonably available.
- f) The court finds that the period of any continuance entered from the date of this Fourth Amended General Order through July 15, 2020, as a result of this Order shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. §3161(h)(7)(A). The court finds that the ends of justice served by the exclusion of time outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial given the need to protect the health and safety of defendants, defense counsel, prosecutors, court staff, and the public by reducing the number of in-person hearings to the greatest extent possible.
- g) Criminal jury trials will not be conducted before August 3, 2020, and trials scheduled to begin before August 3, 2020, will be reset by the presiding

judge. This continuance is necessary because criminal jury trials require: (i) the gathering of a large number of persons in the Jury Department; (ii) at least 12 jurors seated in the courtroom to hear evidence; (iii) 12 jurors to deliberate in the jury room; and (iv) five to six weeks' notice in advance of trial to summon jurors. The advance-notice requirement makes any earlier date impractical because it is not known what large-gathering guidelines will be in place. Social-distancing guidelines might render juror participation difficult or unsafe, including during juror check-in and jury selection. For these same reasons, in cases impacted by this trial continuance, the Court excludes time under the Speedy Trial Act through August 3, 2020, because the ends of justice outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial.

- h) Parties proceeding by way of a bench trial in a criminal case must file a status report with the presiding judge by June 15, 2020, with a proposal for scheduling the bench trial.
- i) The prior General Orders extended certain deadlines in criminal cases. This Fourth Amended General Order extends no deadlines.

#### **Emergency Relief in Any Case or from this Order**

6. Any party may seek emergency relief in any case or from this Fourth Amended General Order. **Emergency motions must be filed in the case in which emergency relief is sought.** Any emergency motion must be filed (i) electronically via CM/ECF or (ii) for pro se non-e-filers, via email as outlined in Paragraph 12. If neither CM/ECF nor email is available to a party, then the party may deposit the emergency motion in a courthouse drop-box or mail the motion. The emergency motion will be considered as soon as practicable by the presiding judge, an emergency judge, or the Chief Judge. Case No.

20-cv-01792, which is a docket created to receive emergency motions filed under earlier General Orders, is now limited to emergency motions for release from custody. Emergency motions for release from custody must be filed on two dockets: (1) the docket of the case in which relief is sought and (2) Case No. 20-cv-01792.

7. For an emergency matter, as defined by Local Rule 77.2(a)(3), that arises during business hours (Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m.), the party shall consult the presiding judge's website and alert the presiding judge's courtroom deputy of the filing. If an emergency matter arises outside of business hours, the party shall call (312) 702-8875, leave a message describing the emergency, and provide a return telephone number. The Clerk will return the call. Parties should consult the Court's website for up-to-date procedures for emergencies.

#### **Clerk's Office and Filing Options**

8. The District Court Clerk's Office in the Dirksen United States Courthouse in Chicago, Illinois, is closed to public entry through June 15, 2020. Filings in the Eastern Division may be: (1) electronically filed via CM/ECF; (2) deposited in the drop-box in the lobby of the Dirksen Courthouse during business hours; or (3) mailed to the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office, 219 South Dearborn Street, 20th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, although mail is not being processed on a regular basis. If a filing is mailed by a prisoner, the traditional "mail box" rule shall govern its filing date. Given the public health emergency and the current inability of the Clerk's Office to process mail in the ordinary course, if a filing is mailed by a non-prisoner, the filing date shall be deemed to be the postmark date, subject to any party's right to move that a different date be used. No in-person deliveries of any kind may be made to a judge's chambers or to the Clerk's Office.
9. The District Court Clerk's Office in the Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse in Rockford, Illinois, is closed to public entry through June 15, 2020. Filings in the

Western Division may be: (i) electronically filed via CM/ECF; (ii) deposited in the drop box located on the 2nd floor of the Roszkowski United States Courthouse during business hours; (iii) mailed to U.S. District Court Clerk's Office, 327 South Church Street, Rockford, IL 61101, although mail is not being processed on a regular basis; or (iv) deposited in the drop box in the lobby of the Dirksen Courthouse during business hours. If a filing is mailed by a prisoner, the traditional "mail box" rule shall govern its filing date. Given the public health emergency and the current inability of the Clerk's Office to process mail in the ordinary course, if a filing is mailed by a non-prisoner, the filing date shall be deemed to be the postmark date, subject to any party's right to move that a different date be used. No in-person deliveries of any kind may be made to a judge's chambers or to the Clerk's Office.

#### **Suspension of Local Rules 5.2(f) and 5.3(b)**

10. The Court suspends Local Rule 5.2(f), which requires in many instances that paper courtesy copies of filings be delivered to the judge, through July 15, 2020. No courtesy copies may be submitted for filings made through July 15, 2020.
11. Although parties may continue to file non-emergency motions, the Court suspends Local Rule 5.3(b), which otherwise requires that all motions be noticed for presentment. For non-emergency motions, no motion may be noticed for presentment on a date earlier than July 15, 2020. For notices of presentment on and after July 15, 2020, **parties must consult each judges' presentment schedule** because judges may continue to suspend the presentment requirement and may schedule motions at limited times.

#### **Email Filing Option for Pro Se Parties**

12. The Court suspends through July 15, 2020, the prohibition against pro se parties emailing their filings to the Clerk's Office. From now through July 15, 2020, the Court will accept filings from pro se litigants via email that comply with these requirements: (i)

the filing must be in PDF format; (ii) the filing must be signed s/ [filer's name] or bear a handwritten signature; (iii) the email must be sent to [Temporary\\_E-Filing@ilnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Temporary_E-Filing@ilnd.uscourts.gov); (iv) the email must state the party's name, address, and phone number; (v) for existing cases, the email's subject line must read: "Pro Se Filing [Insert Your Case Number]", and for new cases, the email's subject line must read: "Pro Se Filing in New Case". E-mails that do not comply with these requirements will not be reviewed and will not be considered a proper filing.

### **Suspension of Public Gatherings**

13. All public gatherings are suspended through July 15, 2020, at both the Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago and the Stanley J. Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse in Rockford. This includes, but is not limited to, group tours and visits, moot courts and mock trials, bar group meetings, seminars, and naturalization ceremonies. Also suspended are in-court proceedings for Second Chance reentry court, SOAR Court, Veterans Treatment court, and Petty Offense (CVB). Notwithstanding this suspension, court proceedings allowed by another provision of this Order may take place.

### **Additional Provisions**

14. This Fourth Amended General Order does not affect the authority of judges to enter orders in any civil or criminal cases. The parties **must consult** individual judges' websites for any modifications to the case-management requirements of this Order.
15. The Court will vacate, amend, or extend this Fourth Amended General Order no later than July 13, 2020.
16. The Clerk of Court shall distribute this Fourth Amended General Order: by electronic service on all registered CM/ECF users; by electronically posting the Order on the Court's public website; by making printed copies available at the entrances of the Dirksen and Roszkowski Courthouses. In addition, the Clerk of Court shall send a copy

of this Order, either electronically or by mail, to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), all IDOC prison or detention facilities, the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health Treatment and Detention Facility, and all county jails in this District; the warden, sheriff, or director of each prison, jail, or detention facility is directed to use reasonable means to notify persons incarcerated or detained therein of this Order and to allow access to this Order. In addition, the Clerk of Court shall docket this Order in each open civil and criminal case. Printed copies will not be mailed to non-CM/ECF users due to the heavy burden such mailings would place on the Clerk's Office.

ENTER:

FOR THE COURT:

  
Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 26th day of May 2020