

**CIRCUIT COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

CHRISTY W. SOLVERSON
Presiding Judge

Jackson County Courthouse
P.O. Box 388
Murphysboro, Illinois 62966-0388
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PRESS RELEASE

April 30, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UPDATED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ENTERED, JACKSON COUNTY COURTS
CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

The Jackson County Courts remain open, however, the Court continues to hear only emergency and essential matters. In response to Governor J.B. Pritzker's modified executive order extending his previous Stay at Home Order until May 31, 2020, and in conjunction with the Illinois Supreme Court's Order M.R. 30370, and Chief Judge James R. Williamson's Administrative Order 2020-4-6, Jackson County Presiding Judge Christy W. Solverson has entered an updated Administrative Order governing the operations of the Jackson County Courts.

Judge Solverson's order includes the following:

- All criminal felony hearings, in which the defendant is not in custody, are to be continued until after May 31, 2020.
- All criminal misdemeanor, driving under the influence, traffic, conservation, and ordinance violation hearings in which the defendant is not in custody, or that does not involve a petition to rescind a statutory summary suspension, are to be continued until after May 31, 2020. Any hearings involving a petition to rescind a statutory summary suspension will be held at the discretion of the judge assigned to the case.
- All juvenile delinquency hearings, other than detention hearings, shall be continued until after May 31, 2020.
- All juvenile abuse, neglect, or dependency hearings, other than shelter care hearings, shall be continued until after May 31, 2020, unless such matters are scheduled by the Court by means of two-way audio-visual communication. All shelter care hearings are deemed essential hearings.
- All plenary orders of protection and no contact cases shall be continued until after May 31, 2020. In any of these cases in which an emergency order was entered, said emergency order shall be extended by the court until a date after May 31, 2020. Petitions for emergency orders of protection are deemed essential matters and will continue to be heard.
- All other civil matters, other than conference call hearings shall be continued until after May 31, 2020.

- All Criminal Jury Trial settings for May and June 2020 are vacated and shall be reset by the Court.
- All Civil Jury Trial settings for May, June, and July 2020 are vacated and shall be reset by the Court.

Jackson County judges will be utilizing conference calls and Zoom hearings for scheduling matters when possible in an effort to remotely facilitate the business of the court. Such matters will be noticed by the Circuit Clerk.

If you have a previously scheduled court date, please contact your attorney, or go to judici.com to see if your case has been rescheduled.

Please be aware when Jackson County Courthouse returns to full operations, your case may be rescheduled for a different time. The Court may be staggering start-times to better manage the flow of people through the courthouse. Checking judici.com will help you arrive at the appropriate time. Check with your attorney to determine if your presence is required. Please **do not** bring friends or family members with you to the building.

Please do not attempt to enter Jackson County Courthouse if you have:

- Flu-like symptoms including fever, cough or shortness of breath;
- Been diagnosed with COVID 19 (or someone close to you has);
- Been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home by any medical provider;
- Traveled, within the last 21 days, to any place designated by the CDC as a high-risk location for COVID-19; or
- Had close contact with anyone who has traveled to any of those high risk locations.

All litigants and attorneys are required to wear a mask or other facial covering while inside the courthouse.

If you are an attorney or litigant and have a scheduled case, appointment, or are otherwise required to appear at the Jackson County Courthouse in connection with a court case, but are unable to appear because of the above restrictions, please contact the Jackson County Courthouse at (618) 687-7330. The court will make reasonable accommodations and reschedule appearances and hearings as needed.

The current situation is one that presents challenges to the Court's normal operations. The Presiding Judge will continue to work with state and local officials to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary and communicate those changes to the general public, other branches of government, and our judicial partners. We ask for your cooperation and patience as we work to minimize the risk to those utilizing the services of the Court, while we continue to perform our essential duties and mandated functions.

All communication related to the functions of the Jackson County Courts should be directed to Jackson County Director of Court Operations, Allison Mileur at (618) 687-7345 or Presiding Judge Christy Solverson at (618) 687-7330.