

**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
(FORD, LIVINGSTON, LOGAN, McLEAN AND WOODFORD COUNTIES)**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 – 09

**EMERGENCY ORDER – COVID-19
ORDER REGARDING TRIALS SCHEDULED MARCH 25 – MAY 1, 2020**

WHEREAS, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative to take steps to protect the health and safety of all employees, judges, attorneys and parties who have court hearings or other business within this Judicial Circuit while also balancing the rights of all said individuals and parties to litigation; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order that directs that “...*the Chief Judge of each circuit may continue trials for the next 60 days and until further order*” of the Supreme Court of Illinois *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency, M.R. 30370* (attached); and

WHEREAS, said further order directs that “*in criminal proceedings, any delay resulting from the emergency continuance order shall not be attributable to the State and the defendant for purposes of section 103-5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 [725 ILCS 5/103-5 (West 2018)]*”; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit specifically finds that the interests of justice so require the continuance of these matters due to the state and nationally recognized public health dangers of summoning a jury and/or conducting trials and that the ordering of these continuances is in the best interests of the public, including parties, witnesses, jurors and all court personnel in order to follow the national and state emergency declarations.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit:

- All jury and bench trials scheduled in McLean County between March 25 – May 1, 2020 are continued until the May 11, 2020 jury calendar unless otherwise ordered to a date specified by the judge presiding in the case; and
- All jury and bench trials scheduled between March 25 - May 1, 2020 in the counties of Ford, Livingston, Logan and Woodford are continued until their respective May 2020 jury calendars or the next available jury calendar if said county does not have a term in May 2020, unless ordered to a specific date by the judge presiding in the case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, presiding judges of the respective counties of this Circuit, or their designee, are authorized to amend the petit jury calendar within said counties to best accommodate the needs of the litigants set for jury trial in their respective counties.

Any provision(s) of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court Administrative Order 2020-06 not in conflict with this Order shall remain in full force and effect. The court will continue to review and adjust the order as is necessary.

Entered this 25th day of March, 2020.



Mark A. Fellheimer, Chief Judge
Eleventh Judicial Circuit