



CIRCUIT COURT OF ILLINOIS
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CHAMBERS OF
JENNIFER H. BAUKNECHT
RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE

LIVINGSTON COUNTY LAW & JUSTICE CENTER
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TO: Members of the Livingston County Bar Association (via email)

FROM: Judge Jennifer H. Bauknecht

DATE: May 18, 2020

RE: Emergency Order- COVID-19

As you know, we continue to operate under Emergency Administrative Order 2020-06 and its Supplements. Barring any major developments with regards to the COVID-19 outbreak, we anticipate resuming “non-essential” court hearings on June 1, 2020, subject to some limitations. We are currently awaiting an Order from the Illinois Supreme Court allowing “non-essential” hearings to resume and then Chief Judge Mark Fellheimer will enter an updated A.O. easing the current restrictions. Each courthouse will have their own procedures to address the needs of that particular building. Although I am not privy to what other circuits are doing, it is my understanding that many others will also begin ramping things up on June 1st.

As we begin to expand the types of hearings we are conducting, I would ask you to keep the following guidelines in mind when scheduling and attending court hearings:

- Arrive no more than 10 minutes before the hearing;
- Bring only your client to the hearing, no family members or friends
- Wear face covering while at LJC
- Maintain social distancing at all times within the LJC
- If the courtroom and conference rooms are at maximum capacity, wait in the jury assembly room
- Limit the number of status hearings on a case/ consider conducting them by phone
- Limit negotiating on a case at the LJC- those discussions should take place before coming to court
- Do not have your client enter the well of the courtroom without first checking with the judge

Each courtroom will be limiting the number of hearings to ensure we do not have more than 10 people in the courtroom during any given hour. Guidelines and procedures will be posted at the LJC with regards to procedures and traffic flow within the building. I would encourage you to continuing conducting hearings remotely whenever possible.

As always, feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued patience, courtesy and cooperation.

cc: Chief Judge Mark A. Fellheimer
Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator