

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

October 29, 2020

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PUBLIC EMERGENCY

The United States District Court and the Clerk's Office remain open. Given the public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, however, and consistent with guidance and orders from federal executive authorities, the State of Illinois, and local governments, it is hereby ORDERED:

General Order 20-0012 and its later amendments are vacated and superseded by this Seventh Amended General Order 20-0012.

Suspension of Jury Trials

1. To limit the numbers of persons whose presence is required in the Courthouses, civil jury trials are suspended effective November 9, 2020, and criminal jury trials are suspended effective immediately. The presiding judge in cases affected by this order shall enter any appropriate orders, including findings under the Speedy Trial Act, on the docket of the individual cases. Under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), the court finds that the period of any continuance entered as a result of this Seventh Amended General Order through January 26, 2021, shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, to serve the ends of justice. The court finds that the delay outweighs 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.
2. Bench trials may proceed without restriction, and are encouraged, so long as any out-of-state witnesses comply with any relevant quarantine requirement or testify remotely.

3. In-person hearings are otherwise limited to situations in which remote procedures are unavailable.

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

1. The Court suspends Local Rule 5.2(f), which requires in many instances that paper courtesy copies of filings be delivered to the judge. No courtesy copies may be submitted for filings unless the parties receive case-specific requests for copies from the presiding judge.
2. The Court suspends Local Rule 5.3(b), which otherwise requires that all motions be noticed for presentment. **No motions may be noticed for in-person presentment;** the presiding judge will notify parties of the need, if any, for a hearing by electronic means or in-court proceeding.

Email Filing Option for Pro Se Parties

3. The Court suspends the prohibition against pro se parties emailing their filings to the Clerk's Office. The Court will accept filings from pro se litigants via email that comply with these requirements: (a) the filing must be in PDF format; (b) the filing must be signed s/ [filer's name] or bear a handwritten signature; (c) the email must be sent to Temporary_E-Filing@ilnd.uscourts.gov; (d) the email must state the party's name, address, and phone number; (e) 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

4. Effective November 2, 2020, all public gatherings are suspended at both the Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago and the Stanley J. Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse in Rockford, unless specifically authorized by the Chief Judge.

Additional Provisions

5. This Seventh Amended General Order does not affect the authority of judges to enter orders in any civil or criminal cases.
6. The Court will vacate, amend, or extend this Seventh Amended General Order no later than January 26, 2021.
7. The Clerk of Court shall distribute this Seventh Amended General Order by electronically posting the Order on the Court's public website.

ENTER:

FOR THE COURT:



Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 29th day of October 2020