

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

GENERAL ORDER 25-0012

The full Court met in executive session on February 29, 2024 and approved proposed amendments to Local Rule 77.2 - Emergencies: Emergency Judges be published for comment. The proposed amendments were published for comments due on May 10, 2024. Neither the Rules Advisory Committee nor the Public submitted comments.

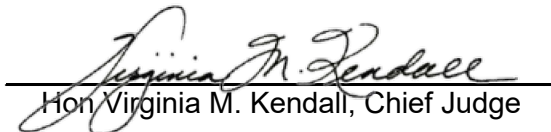
The Rules Committee considered the proposed amendments and the report of the Rules Advisory Committee at its April 10, 2024 meeting. The Rules Committee approved the recommendations from the Rules Advisory Committee and recommended that the full Court adopt Local Rule 77.2.

The full Court considered the recommendation of the Rules Committee at its meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025, and agreed to adopt amended Local Rule 77.2.

By direction of the full Court,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Local Rule 77.2 be implemented as attached (additions shown thus, deletions shown ~~thus~~). The Rule is effective immediately, pending the approval of the Seventh Circuit Judicial Council.

ENTER:
FOR THE COURT


Hon. Virginia M. Kendall, Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 19th day of May 2025

LR 77.2 Emergencies; Emergency Judges

(a) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules—

(1) "Emergency judge" means the judge assigned to perform the duties of emergency judge specified by any local rule or procedure adopted by the Court,

(2) "Emergency magistrate judge" means the magistrate judge assigned to perform the duties of emergency magistrate judge specified by any local rule or procedure adopted by the Court, and

(3) "Emergency matter" means a matter of such a nature that the delay in hearing it that would result from its being treated as any other matter would cause serious and irreparable harm to one or more of the parties to the proceeding if requests for continuances or leave to file briefs or interrogatories in excess of the limits prescribed by these rules will normally be entertained as emergency matters only during the summer sessions, and

(4) "Summer session" means the fourteen-week period beginning on the first Monday in June.

(b) Duties of Emergency Judge. The emergency judge is responsible for hearing all emergency matters not previously assigned to a judge of this Court that arise outside of the regular business hours of the Court, except for discovery motions as set forth in subsection (c) below.

During regular office hours other than in the summer session, the emergency judge will not hear emergency matters arising out of the cases assigned to the calendar of another judge where that judge is sitting, except on approval of the chief judge at the request of the judge to whom the case is assigned. The emergency judge will also hear the following matters or preside at the following ceremonies:

(1) petitions for admission brought by attorneys wishing to be admitted to practice before the Court;

(2) requests for review or de novo determinations of matters directly assigned to the duty magistrate brought pursuant to [LCR 50.4](#);

(3) petitions presented by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service;

(4) ceremonies for the mass admission of attorneys to the bar of this Court; and

(5) ceremonies for the administration of the oath of allegiance to newly naturalized citizens.

(c) Any emergency matter involving discovery or requests for protective orders that would otherwise be brought before the emergency judge are referred and shall be brought before the magistrate judge assigned to the case (or the emergency magistrate judge when the assigned magistrate judge is not sitting).

(d) Duties of Emergency Magistrate Judge. The emergency magistrate judge is responsible for hearing any emergency matter arising in a case referred or assigned to a magistrate judge when that magistrate judge is not sitting.

(e) Western Division. A party in a case filed in or to be filed in the Western Division with an emergency matter should first contact the active Western Division district judge, or in that judge's absence, the Western Division magistrate judge who has been designated to be the duty magistrate judge in the Western Division. If neither can be reached, then the emergency judge is authorized to handle the matter.

Committee Comment. In general, matters are to be presented to the judge to whom the case is assigned. Under procedures adopted by the Court, if a judge anticipates being absent temporarily, that judge will designate another judge to hear the absent judge's call. The name of the designated judge is posted on the door of the courtroom regularly used by the absent judge. It is also posted on the Court's website.

If the absent judge did not designate another judge or where both the absent judge and the designated judge are unavailable, an emergency matter can then be taken before the emergency judge. If the emergency judge should also be unavailable, the matter can be brought to the attention of the chief judge. The chief judge is the chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Court's calendar committee. In that role the chief judge can instruct the parties as to which judge should hear the matter.

While emergency matters arising outside of regular business hours are rare, it is not unusual that a party can anticipate that happening. An example is ongoing negotiations which, if they do not reach agreement, will lead one of the parties to seek injunctive relief and the negotiations must be concluded by a point in time that lies outside of regular business hours, e.g., midnight on a Saturday. In such instances the party should make every effort to contact the chambers of the emergency judge and inform staff of the potential emergency. In this way arrangements can be made that will give greater assurance that the emergency judge will be available in the event that the emergency matter does in fact occur. If an emergency matter occurs outside of regular business hours and the party has not made prior arrangements with the emergency judge, a telephone number is posted on the Court's website for contacting a member of the staff of the emergency judge.

Amended 06/19/2001, 04/01/2002, 05/11/2009, 12/22/2015, and 03/22/2019

LR 77.2 Emergencies; Emergency Judges

(a) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules—

(1) "Emergency judge" means the judge assigned to perform the duties of emergency judge specified by any local rule or procedure adopted by the Court,

(2) "~~Emergency Duty~~ magistrate judge" means the magistrate judge assigned ~~to perform the duties of emergency magistrate judge to address emergency matters~~ as specified by any local rule or procedure adopted by the Court, and

(3) "Emergency matter" means a matter of such a nature that the delay in hearing it that would result from its being treated as any other matter would cause serious and irreparable harm to one or more of the parties to the proceeding if requests for continuances or leave to file briefs or interrogatories in excess of the limits prescribed by these rules will normally be entertained as emergency matters only during the summer sessions. ~~and~~

~~(4) "Summer session" means the fourteen-week period beginning on the first Monday in June.~~

(b) Duties of Emergency Judge. The emergency judge is responsible for hearing all emergency matters not previously assigned to a judge of this Court that arise outside of the regular business hours of the Court, except for discovery motions as set forth in subsection (c) below.

During regular office hours ~~other than in the summer session~~, the emergency judge will not hear emergency matters arising out of the cases assigned to the calendar of another judge where that judge is sitting, except on approval of the chief judge at the request of the judge to whom the case is assigned. The emergency judge will also hear the following matters ~~or preside at the following ceremonies~~:

(1) petitions for admission brought by attorneys wishing to be admitted to practice before the Court; and

(2) requests for review or de novo determinations of matters directly assigned to the duty magistrate judge brought pursuant to LCR 50.4; ~~and~~

~~(3) petitions presented by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service;~~

~~(4) ceremonies for the mass admission of attorneys to the bar of this Court; and~~

~~(5) ceremonies for the administration of the oath of allegiance to newly naturalized citizens.~~

(c) During business hours. Any emergency matter involving discovery or requests for protective orders that would otherwise be brought before the emergency judge are referred and shall be brought before the magistrate judge assigned to the case (or the emergency-duty magistrate judge when the assigned magistrate judge is not

sitting). After business hours, any emergency matter involving discovery or requests for protective orders are to be brought before the emergency district judge.

~~(d) Duties of Emergency Magistrate Judge.~~ The emergency magistrate judge is responsible for hearing any emergency matter arising in a case referred or assigned to a magistrate judge when that magistrate judge is not sitting.

~~(e) Western Division.~~ A party in a case filed in or to be filed in the Western Division with an emergency matter should first contact the active Western Division district judge, or in that judge's absence, the Western Division magistrate judge who has been designated to be the duty magistrate judge in the Western Division. If neither can be reached, then the emergency judge is authorized to handle the matter.

~~Committee Comment.~~ In general, matters are to be presented to the judge to whom the case is assigned. Under procedures adopted by the Court, if a judge anticipates being absent temporarily, that judge will designate another judge to hear the absent judge's call. The name of the designated judge is posted on the door of the courtroom regularly used by the absent judge. It is also posted on the Court's website.

~~If the absent judge did not designate another judge or where both the absent judge and the designated judge are unavailable, an emergency matter can then be taken before the emergency judge. If the emergency judge should also be unavailable, the matter can be brought to the attention of the chief judge. The chief judge is the chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Court's calendar committee. In that role the chief judge can instruct the parties as to which judge should hear the matter.~~

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Amended 06/19/2001, 04/01/2002, 05/11/2009, 12/22/2015, ~~and~~ 03/22/2019, and XXXX.

LR 77.2 Emergencies; Emergency Judges

(a) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules—

(1) "Emergency judge" means the judge assigned to perform the duties of emergency judge specified by any local rule or procedure adopted by the Court,

(2) "Duty magistrate judge" means the magistrate judge assigned to address emergency matters as specified by any local rule or procedure adopted by the Court, and

(3) "Emergency matter" means a matter of such a nature that the delay in hearing it that would result from its being treated as any other matter would cause serious and irreparable harm to one or more of the parties to the proceeding if requests for continuances or leave to file briefs or interrogatories in excess of the limits prescribed by these rules will normally be entertained as emergency matters only during the summer sessions.

(b) Duties of Emergency Judge. The emergency judge is responsible for hearing all emergency matters not previously assigned to a judge of this Court that arise outside of the regular business hours of the Court, except for discovery motions as set forth in subsection (c) below.

During regular office hours, the emergency judge will not hear emergency matters arising out of the cases assigned to the calendar of another judge where that judge is sitting, except on approval of the chief judge at the request of the judge to whom the case is assigned. The emergency judge will also hear the following matters:

(1) petitions for admission brought by attorneys wishing to be admitted to practice before the Court; and

(2) requests for review or de novo determinations of matters directly assigned to the duty magistrate judge brought pursuant to [LCR 50.4](#).

(c) During business hours, any emergency matter involving discovery or requests for protective orders that would otherwise be brought before the emergency judge are referred and shall be brought before the magistrate judge assigned to the case (or the duty magistrate judge when the assigned magistrate judge is not sitting). After business hours, any emergency matter involving discovery or requests for protective orders are to be brought before the emergency district judge.