



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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**Statement on Lapse in Appropriations:
District Court will sustain paid operations through January 18, 2019**

During the partial shutdown of the federal government, which began December 22, 2018, the Judiciary has continued to operate by using court fee balances and other “no-year” funds. On January 7, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts announced that it has revised its original estimate and now is working toward the goal of sustaining paid operations through January 18, 2019.

“We are deeply concerned that the lack of appropriation will create delays in the Court’s ability to ensure timely justice,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo, Northern District of Illinois.

If Congress has not approved an appropriation or a continuing resolution by January 18, a lapse in funding will result and will require the Court to operate under the Anti-Deficiency Act. Criminal jury trials will continue, but jurors will not be paid until an appropriation has been reached. Civil jury trials in progress will continue, but no new civil jury trials will commence.

On December 26, 2018, Chief Judge Castillo, in light of the lapse of congressional appropriations, entered [General Order 18-0028](#), which holds in abeyance all civil litigation involving as a party the United States of America, its agencies, its officers, employees, and/or any party represented by the Department of Justice or the U.S Attorney’s Office. As of January 9, 2019, this includes 983 cases, many of which involve Social Security Administration, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Under the General Order, once federal operations are restored, the stay will be automatically lifted, and deadlines in affected civil cases will be extended by the number of days of the shutdown, plus seven days.

If Congress fails to pass an appropriation or continuing resolution by January 18, 2019, Court employees will be required to report to work, but will not be paid until funding is restored.

“If we reach the point where paychecks are not being issued, the consequences could be very problematic. Many Court employees live paycheck to paycheck and will be forced to make extremely tough financial decisions to keep their families afloat. Parties will not be able have a civil jury trial without an appropriation to fund the judiciary after January 18, 2019, and that will cause significant delays in case management,” said Chief Judge Castillo.

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