



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

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Statement from Chief Judge Kendall on the Lapse in Appropriations:

District Court will enter Phase 2 on October 18, 2025

Beginning October 18, 2025, the Court will enter Phase 2 of operating during a lapse in appropriations. During Phase 2, employees will not receive salary payments. The Clerk's Office will reduce operations to perform only excepted activities to avoid violations of the Antideficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. §§ 1341-42. The Clerk's Office and Court define excepted activities as any activity necessary to exercise the Court's constitutional functions, any activity that addresses emergency or potential emergent circumstances, activity that protects constitutional guarantees, or activity that provides necessary services for judges and staff performing this excepted work. The Clerk's Office is staffed at 78% of authorized levels, and all staff will be assigned to perform excepted activities during the shutdown.

"I am concerned that the lack of appropriation will create delays in the Court's ability to ensure timely justice. Furthermore, the dedicated public servants, who allow those who seek redress prompt access to Court, are now feeling the pain of their paychecks being suspended and facing difficult financial decisions to keep their families afloat because of the shutdown," said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall, Northern District of Illinois.

Phase 2 of a lapse in appropriations occurs when balances from fees and no-year appropriations are exhausted before Congress acts to fund judiciary operations, and the judiciary has no available funds to continue operations.

Since Phase 1, all civil litigation involving the United States of America as a party has been impacted. The lapse in appropriations required a reduction in the workforce of the United States Attorney's Office and other federal agencies, particularly with respect to prosecution and defense of civil cases. The Court entered an order staying all deadlines in all civil cases involving the United States as a party, with limited exceptions.

On October 15, 2025, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO) notified all courts that they have sufficient funds to continue to pay petit and grand jurors. Therefore, all trials and grand jury sessions will continue as scheduled until such time as the AO determines that fees for jurors have been exhausted.