FILED

JUL 28 2020

Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Sangamon County Administrative Order 2020-15
Sangamon County Courthouse Procedures for COVID-19 Coronavirus

WHEREAS, The Sangamon County Courts will take all reasonable measures to minimize personal contact to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Whereas, The Illinois Supreme Court has entered an Order in M.R. 30370 instructing the courts to continue to establish and periodically update temporary procedures to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the court system, while continuing to provide access to justice.

Whereas, Sangamon County consistently monitors the caseload volumes for daily court calls to determine if the volume of cases exceeds the volume of the people that can be safely processed through the county building in light of the concerted efforts being made to comply with all social distancing recommendations from public health officials.

Whereas, Sangamon County has seen an increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the weeks since Sangamon County expanded operations to include high volume docket calls.

Whereas, the Sangamon County courts have conducted a review of its temporary operations and have identified a need to reduce the volume of court participants from physically appearing for court proceedings during the normal hours of operations when the county complex is at full capacity due to the resumption of county operations and the return of county employees.

Whereas, the First Appearance traffic court call generates the most substantial volume of participants who are summoned to appear for court proceedings on a daily basis and continuing to hold those docket calls during normal operating hours creates an increased risk of community spread of the infection unnecessarily.

Whereas, Sangamon County has acknowledged the need to expand court operations outside of the normal operating parameters to include a Saturday court call that will be specifically designed to process First Appearance traffic and ordinance citations issued by law enforcement agencies in Sangamon County.

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the following operational modifications and expansions shall be effective August 3, 2020 and shall continue until further order of the court:

Suspension of Specified Traffic and Ordinance Violation Proceedings: All cases docketed for an initial or first appearance on traffic and civil ordinance citations docketed for hearing in Sangamon County court from the dates of August 3, 2020 through at least and until August 27, 2020 shall be continued.

Modification of Appearance Days and Times: Beginning September 12, 2020 and continuing September 19, 2020 and September 26, 2020, and as needed thereafter, Sangamon County courts will hold multiple sessions of traffic court throughout each Saturday as scheduled. Sessions will start at 8:30 a.m. and shall be held every hour thereafter until the docket is concluded.

Notice of Rescheduled Court Proceedings: Defendants impacted by this Administrative Order will receive a proof of service of the docket order continuing the affected case with details of the newly assigned date and time for the hearing included in the order. Attendance on the correct date, and at the scheduled time, will be vitally important to the overall safety and efficiency of the proceedings held each Saturday.

Cases Unaffected by this Order: Driving Under the Influence (DT) and Criminal Misdemeanor (CM) cases will continue to be processed on their initial appearances as set forth by law enforcement in the citations or as continued from earlier appearances by the court. The Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office will have a daily operational presence within the first floor of the Sangamon County Courthouse to process the remaining cases docketed for appearance as scheduled.

ENTERED THIS 28th DAY OF July, 2020.

JOHN M. MADONIA
Presiding Judge