

**SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
(CHAMPAIGN, MACON, DEWITT, PIATT, MOULTRIE, DOUGLAS)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 – 02**

**EMERGENCY ORDER – COVID – 19**

**Effective March 24, 2020 Until Further Order**

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order - *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency, M.R. 30370*;

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of the State of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker, issued a “stay at home” order requiring that Illinois residents remain in their homes except for essentials;

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, Chief Judge Koritz entered circuit-wide Administrative Order 2020-01 which considerably reduced courthouse operations and placed limitations on the types of cases that may be heard through April 10, 2020. Said order extended similar provisions previously put into effect in the various counties of the 6<sup>th</sup> circuit and was consistent with administrative orders entered in various judicial circuits throughout the state;

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order – *In re Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency / Impact on Trials, M.R. 30370*. Said order grants authority to the chief judge of each circuit to continue trials for the 60 days following entry of said order and until further order of the Illinois Supreme Court.

**WHEREAS**, Chief Judge Koritz has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to slow the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus in order to protect the health and safety of jurors, witnesses, courthouse employees, patrons, staff, and litigants, including criminal defendants. Such measures should include the continuance of all jury trials as authorized by the Illinois Supreme Court for the reasons stated herein;

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, effective immediately within all courthouses of the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit:

1. All jury trials are continued until no earlier than April 20, 2020 unless or until further order of the Illinois Supreme Court or until further order authorized by the Illinois Supreme Court.
2. Bench trials may proceed during the effective period of this order only in the discretion of the presiding judge of the county of trial if the presiding judge determines that proceeding would not be inconsistent with the directives of Administrative Order 2020-01.
3. Upon the resumption of jury trials, each presiding judge within the 6<sup>th</sup> circuit is hereby authorized, in his or her discretion, to add an additional jury term in order to comply with

speedy trial requirements and/or to ease the backlog of jury trial cases. Such a special jury term shall be for a one or two week period and shall commence on a date convenient to the courthouse operations of the county in question as determined by the presiding judge.

This Order is effective from March 24, 2020 through the time period set forth herein.

Entered this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.



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Karle Koritz, Chief Judge  
Sixth Judicial Circuit