

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 – 05
REMOTE APPEARANCES AND TWO-WAY AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION**

Effective Immediately

WHEREAS, 725 ILCS 5/106D-1 provides that a person in custody may appear in court by means of two-way audio-visual communication in certain proceedings as authorized by the chief judge of the circuit, and may also appear remotely in certain proceedings not therein enumerated upon waiver of the right to be present physically.

WHEREAS, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 185 authorizes the court, in civil cases and upon the request of a party, to direct argument of any motion or discussion of any other matter remotely, including by telephone or video conferencing.

WHEREAS, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 241 provides that in civil cases the court may, for good cause shown in compelling circumstances and upon appropriate safeguards, permit presentation of testimony in open court by contemporaneous transmission from a different location. The committee's comments to this rule affirm that presentation of live testimony in court remains of utmost importance but acknowledge that the remote presentation of evidence may be necessary for the proper administration of justice in compelling circumstances.

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, in response to Governor Pritzker's declaration of a State of Emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Illinois Supreme Court entered its Order M.R. 30370. Said order established certain temporary procedures and guidelines to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the court system while continuing to provide access to justice. Said order further sought to discourage person-to-person contact in the courthouse and encouraged the use of remote communication, specifically authorizing the court to consider as evidence sworn statements made out of court or sworn testimony given remotely, out of court, by teleconference, videoconference, or other means subject to constitutional limitations.

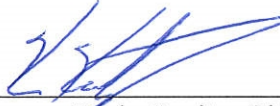
WHEREAS, the allowance of remote appearances, if determined by the judge presiding over a case to be (1) proper and appropriate; (2) within constitutional limitations; and (3) authorized by statute, local court rules, or the Illinois Supreme Court Rules, may improve accessibility to justice and to the court system.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED with respect to all courthouses within the 6th Judicial Circuit:

1. The judge presiding over a particular case, in his or her discretion, may authorize any party to appear, argue, or present testimony remotely as expressly authorized by, and in compliance with, 725 ILCS 5/106D-1, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 185 and 241, and/or any other statute or Illinois Supreme Court Rule allowing for remote appearances.

2. Remote appearances and testimony not expressly authorized by the Illinois Compiled Statutes or Illinois Supreme Court Rules shall otherwise be allowed if authorized by, and in compliance with, Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370 while either the national or state declaration of emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic remains in effect or until further order of the Illinois Supreme Court.

Entered this 8th day of April 2020.



Karle Koritz, Chief Judge
Sixth Judicial Circuit