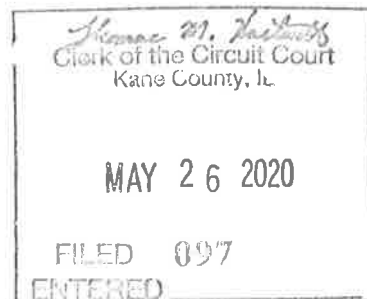


**IN THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GENERAL ORDER 20-21**
effective June 1, 2020

**IN THE MATTER OF)
COVID-19)
REQUIREMENT OF MASKS)
IN ALL COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS)**



WHEREAS, in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public, circuit court judges and circuit court employees, and after consultation with the offices of the Kane County State’s Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Circuit Clerk, County Board, and representatives of the private bar, and pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the Court’s inherent authority, and

WHEREAS, due to the frequently changing circumstances involved with the COVID-19 pandemic, measures must continue to be implemented and updated to protect the health and safety of all those working inside the courthouse and the public, and to ensure the fair and efficient access to justice; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court Guidelines For Resuming Illinois Judicial Branch Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic recommends that all practical measures should be taken within the courthouse and courtrooms to ensure a clean environment and prevent the spread of the virus, including notifying all entering the courthouse that wearing a mask/face covering is required (consistent with current public health requirements and Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order).

WHEREAS, to protect the health and safety of all those inside the courthouse and inside all courtrooms:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that upon the effective date of this Order and until further order of court:

- 1) Anyone entering the courthouse must wear a mask/face covering; and
- 2) Individuals are encouraged to wear their own mask/face covering. If an individual does not have a mask, one may be provided to them, if available. If a mask/face covering is not available, the individual will not be allowed to enter the courthouse; and
- 3) If an individual refuses to wear a mask/face covering, entry will be denied; and
- 4) If an individual refuses to follow this Order and wear a mask/face covering once inside the courthouse, they will be asked to put one on. If they continue to refuse to wear the mask/face covering, they will be removed from the building; and
- 5) All judges, judicial staff, courthouse employees, attorneys and members of the general public must wear masks/face coverings when inside the public spaces of the courthouses; and

- 6) All persons, including courtroom personnel, must wear masks/face coverings when inside all courtrooms, unless the presiding judge of the courtroom gives permission to remove the mask/face covering in order to participate in a court proceeding.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that court security personnel and judicial staff shall take reasonable measures to enforce six-foot social distancing and the wearing of masks/face coverings within the public spaces of the courthouses and all courtrooms.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in addition to requiring masks/face coverings and practicing social distancing, the 16th Judicial Circuit will be limiting the number of people inside the courthouses and courtrooms.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court may issue further Orders, as necessary, to address the changing circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic.

Entered this 26th day of May 2020, and effective June 1st, 2020.


Clint Hull, Chief Judge

A true copy of the original of this document is on file in my office
Attest: 5-26, 20 20
Thomas M. Hartwell
Circuit Court Clerk, Kane County, Illinois
By: 
Deputy Clerk