

Frank R. Fuhr
Chief Judge



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Victoria A. Bluedorn
Trial Court Administrator

From: Frank R. Fuhr, Chief Judge

To: Attorneys, Litigants, Court Staff, Judicial Partners, and General Public

Date: March 19, 2020

Re: **Update on Rock Island County Court Operations in Response to Coronavirus**

Below please find guidance regarding treatment of cases and hearings pursuant to administrative orders entered as of March 19, 2020.

Cases to be heard prior to May 4, 2020

- All criminal first appearances, arraignments, motions to suppress, motions to quash, pretrial conferences, trials and other criminal hearings for in-custody defendants;
- All juvenile cases, except a limited number that will be reset at the discretion of the presiding judge. Litigants/attorneys will be notified if their case is continued;
- Statutory Summary Suspension hearings;
- Domestic violence cases (Orders of Protection, No Stalking, No Contact) except as determined by the assigned judge. Litigants/attorneys will be notified if their case is continued;
- Emergency civil hearings;
- Telephonic hearings on a case by case basis as permitted by the assigned judge;
- Forcible entry and detainer trials before May 4, 2020 that were already on the schedule as of March 13, 2020;
- Forfeiture probable cause call on Fridays.

Cases continued and/or will not be heard until after May 4, 2020

- Out of custody CM, CF, DT, TR, OV, CV cases. The continuance in these matters will be without prejudice to timely motions regarding speedy trial;
- Non-emergency civil trials/hearings (jury and bench), all small claims, all arbitrations;
- Pay or appear hearings;
- IDHFS child support hearings;
- Case management conferences;

- Non-emergency walk-in; and,
- All forcible entry and detainer hearings/appearance dates. If a trial date before May 4, 2020 was not on the schedule as of March 13, 2020, a trial will not occur until after May 4, 2020.

Efforts are being made to send new notices to litigants with new court dates for arbitration, small claims, and out of custody CM, CF, DT, TR, OV, CV cases. In all cases litigants and attorneys should check the status of their court dates at judici.com. If you need to reschedule a specially set hearing contact Court Administration (309) 558-3260. Litigants who have scheduled non-emergency civil walk-in hearings should reset the hearings on or after May 4, 2020 and send new notice.

All scheduled events at the courthouse remain canceled until further notice including trainings and tours. Weddings and civil union ceremonies currently scheduled will take place as planned, but new ceremonies will be set on a date after June 1, 2020.

The coronavirus pandemic presents the courts with a unique set of challenges. Court leadership will continue to actively work with our local and state units of government to timely adapt to developments as they occur. Our focus remains on the health and safety of our citizens, court users, and staff while providing an essential governmental function. Please monitor the county website for updates.