

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED

MAY 19 2020

STANDING ORDER FOR REMOTE HEARINGS AND SCHEDULING
IN JUDGE SANDERS' PROBATE, CHANCERY, DIVORCE AND FAMILY CASES

A. W. Weir
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of the State of Illinois issued a disaster declaration for all counties in the state of Illinois;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court, in light of the disaster declaration and the Governor's Executive Orders, issued various Administrative Orders continuing all civil cases and certain criminal cases, as well as extending certain deadlines;

WHEREAS, the Court finds it necessary to conduct remote status hearings and other hearings in compliance with the Governor's and the Illinois Supreme Court's Orders.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, it is ordered and adjudged as follows:

1. Until further order of the Court, all of Judge Sanders' Probate, Chancery, Divorce and Family matters, unless directed otherwise by the court, will cease to be heard in person at the Williamson County Courthouse, but instead will be held virtually via the Zoom Cloud app.
2. A remote hearing schedule has been provided to the Circuit Clerk. As best as possible, hearings will be set pursuant to said schedule.
3. Each participant must register with Zoom and obtain a Zoom account. No person will be allowed to attend the hearing without a Zoom account. This is a free app which may be downloaded onto your computer, tablet or smart phone.
4. Each party will receive notification of the Zoom ID code and password, as well as a telephone number for those without video capabilities. Persons without video capabilities may still participate in the hearing via audio once a Zoom account has been obtained. In order to attend the hearing via Zoom, the meeting ID and password must be used. Therefore, each party must stay in contact with his or her attorney and must keep his or her attorney, *as well as the Circuit Clerk*, advised of the parties' current residence address, email address and telephone number.
5. Parties are excused from attending status hearings if represented by an attorney.
6. Each participant should insure their name, appears prominently in the Zoom account so that each person can be identified more easily and they should use the name as it appears of record with the Circuit Clerk.

7. If possible, each person should use a wired internet connection. Most of the time a wireless connection will work, but fewer problems arise with wired internet connection.

8. Each person should appear by video if possible in order to be properly identified on the record.

9. Please test your video and audio **BEFORE** the hearing.

10. Please join the hearing **EARLY**. Once the hearing starts it may be difficult to add participants to the hearing. Further, once the hearing has begun, the hearing will be "locked." **IF YOU LEAVE THE HEARING YOU MIGHT NOT BE ALLOWED BACK IN.**

11. Pursuant to 720 ILCS 5/14-2, it is illegal for anyone to record a conversation unless all parties agree. I do **NOT** agree to be recorded before, during or after the hearing. The only official record of this hearing is that which is being made by the court reporter. The Court takes this very seriously. **A violation of this rule could result in contempt proceedings being instituted against the offending party.**

12. Everyone will be asked to introduce himself/herself at the beginning of the hearing.

13. Each person should mute the microphone on your Zoom app to eliminate background noise until it is your turn to speak.

14. Only one person may speak at a time.

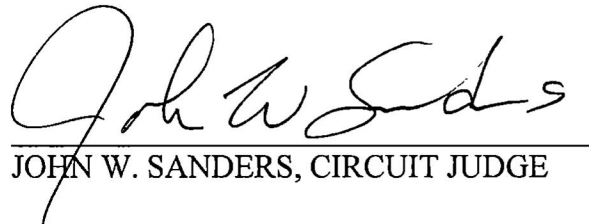
15. All pleadings, exhibits and proposed orders are to be submitted electronically through the Circuit Clerk's office; unless as a self represented litigant said requirement has been waived.

16. If you have any difficulties, please call the Judicial Secretary at 618-997-1301 Ext. 1256.

17. This Order may be amended or modified.

SO ORDERED

ENTER: May 19, 2020



JOHN W. SANDERS, CIRCUIT JUDGE