

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

FILED
SEP 04 2020
A.W. Wi
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

**SECOND AMENDED STANDING ORDER FOR REMOTE HEARINGS AND
SCHEDULING IN JUDGE SANDERS' PROBATE, CHANCERY, DIVORCE AND
FAMILY CASES**
(September 4, 2020)

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.

Beginning August 24, 2020, all of Judge Sanders' Small Claims, LM and Forcible Entry and Detainer (FED) cases, unless directed otherwise by the court, will cease to be heard in person, but will be held virtually via the Zoom cloud app.

www.zoom.us/join
Meeting ID: 347 567 8660
Password: 7NqRAe

1.(a) Beginning September 7, 2020, Judge Sanders' newly set, evidentiary bench trials and jury trials will be conducted in person at the Williamson County Courthouse, unless directed otherwise. Motions to conduct hearing remotely may be filed in accordance to Supreme Court Rule 45.

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 person who intends to participate in a hearing in which the person received notice 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 person attending a remote hearing should insure that his or her name which is of record with the clerk appears prominently in the Zoom account so that each person can be identified more easily and added to the hearing.

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.

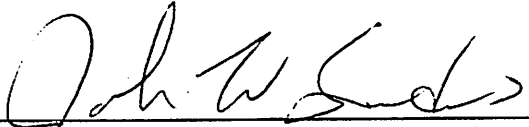
15. This Order may be amended or modified.

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

17. 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.

SO ORDERED

ENTER: 9-4-2020


JOHN W. SANDERS, CIRCUIT JUDGE