

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Administrative Order Number 2024-4-3

FILED
APR 03 2024
JUSTIN MAZE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

WHEREAS, On April 2, 2024, the Chief Judge of the First Judicial Circuit ordered that the presiding judges of the First Judicial Circuit shall exercise their discretion whether to close courthouses for any portion of the business day on April 8, 2024, as a safety measure to all employees and the public;

WHEREAS, The Sheriff of Williamson County has expressed a desire to be able to provide heightened security, traffic control, and other public safety services associated with the issues that arise with the influx of tourists and those viewing the eclipse, and a closure of the judicial section would allow a shift of resources for that endeavor;

WHEREAS, Increased traffic will impact both small and large towns and will pose traveling hazards on interstates, state route highways, country roads and city streets; this is especially true along the I-57 corridor between I-64, I-24, Route 37 and 13; This equally impacts tourists, and the majority of courthouse employees who commute by automobile, as well as patrons for the court services;

WHEREAS, Dockets were cleared weeks in advance because attorneys, staff, and litigants are unavailable, as they have reserved April 8, 2024, to view the eclipse;

WHEREAS, One-half of the Williamson County Circuit judges will be participants at the 2024 Education Conference on April 8, 2024, or serve as Faculty at the Education Conference;

WHEREAS, where possible, skeleton crews, appropriate accommodations to ensure access to justice, court contact numbers, and remote hearings (for emergency or other matters) are available in Williamson County;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED: That the judicial section of the courthouse is to be closed commencing 12:00 noon on April 8, 2024, and that the on call judge will provide coverage for any emergent matter that may occur during this time period.

DATED this 3rd day of April, 2024.

ENTER:



Stephen R. Green
Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court
First Judicial Circuit
Williamson County, Illinois