

*IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN THE  
COUNTY OF KANKAKEE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS*

**STANDING ORDER WITH REGARDS TO THE REOPENING OF COURTROOM 200  
AND COURTROOM 109 FOR FELONY, MISDEMEANOR, TRAFFIC, BUSINESS,  
CONSERVATION AND ORDINANCE OFFENSES**

The Governor and the Supreme Court have instructed the Circuit Courts to minimize persons entering the courthouse in order to reduce the risk of transmitting the COVID 19 infection. Toward that end, the Twenty-First Circuit has greatly reduced in person appearances in all courtrooms until the end of May. As of today's date, the Kankakee County Courthouse is scheduled to reopen on June 1, 2020.

While the Courthouse will be reopening, the threat, or potential threat of COVID-19 transmission has not been eliminated, and mitigating efforts will still be in place.

All persons entering Courtrooms 200 and 109 will be required to maintain social distancing guidelines and you may be asked to wait outside the courtroom until your case is called. All persons will be required to provide and wear their own facemask, unless given permission from the judge presiding over the courtroom to remove it.

If represented by legal counsel, defendants facing felony or misdemeanor charges, whether criminal or traffic, will be required to be present for first appearances, arraignments, evidentiary hearings, guilty pleas, pre-trial hearings, trial dates, and appearances where a trial date will be set. Defendants' appearances will be waived for all other court dates.

Defendants not represented by legal counsel and facing felony or misdemeanor charges, whether criminal or traffic, will be required to appear for all court dates.

For petty offenses, business offenses, conservation offenses and ordinance violations, defendants represented by legal counsel will be required to appear for trial dates and evidentiary hearing dates. Defendants' appearances will be waived for all other dates. Written pleas of guilty to these types of offenses may be accepted upon discretion of the Court.

Defendants not represented by legal counsel and who are facing petty offenses, business offenses, conservation offenses and ordinance violations must appear for all dates where required pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 551 and 575. Your traffic citation may have a "COURT APPEARANCE REQUIRED" box checked at the bottom of the citation. If no appearance is required, you may be able to take care of the citation(s) at the counter in Room 108 BEFORE your court date. Check with the Clerk's office (815) 936-5700.

Any defendant not represented by counsel who fails to appear for any court date for a petty offense, business offense, ordinance violation or conservation violation may be subject to an ex parte conviction and statutory fine or a default judgment.

This order shall be in effect until September 1, 2020.

As the situation regarding COVID-19 is constantly evolving on a local, state, national and international level, this order may be subject to modification or extension as the circumstances warrant.



---

Thomas Cunnington  
Circuit Judge



---

William Dickenson  
Associate Judge