

**SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
(CHAMPAIGN, MACON, DEWITT, PIATT, MOULTRIE, DOUGLAS)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020 – 04
EMERGENCY ORDER – COVID – 19**

Effective Immediately

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order – *In re Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency / Impact on Trials*, M.R. 30370. Said order grants authority to the chief judge of each circuit to continue trials for the 60 days following entry of said order and until further order of the Illinois Supreme Court.

WHEREAS, 6th Circuit Administrative Order 2020-02, entered on March 24, 2020, continued all jury trials within the 6th circuit to no earlier than April 20, 2020.

WHEREAS, 6th Circuit Administrative Order 2020-03 entered on April 2, 2020, extended the effective date of 6th Circuit Administrative Order 2020-02 such that all jury trials were continued to no earlier than May 18, 2020, as authorized by Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370. 6th Circuit Administrative Orders 2020-02 and 2020-03 provided that bench trials could proceed only in the discretion of the Presiding Judge of each respective county.

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court amended its Order M.R. 30370 to authorize the Chief Judge of each circuit to continue all trials until further order of the Illinois Supreme Court. The Illinois Supreme Court included in said amendment language specifically contemplating the continuance of juvenile delinquency trials.

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court further amended its Order M.R. 30370 to expressly provide that continuances authorized by the chief judge of each circuit pursuant to M.R. 30370 shall be excluded from speedy trial computations contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Illinois Juvenile Act.

WHEREAS, the majority of trials in juvenile delinquency proceedings are bench trials with no statutory right to a trial by jury. Accordingly, a new Administrative Order should be entered clarifying that all bench trials, including all juvenile bench trials, are continued to no earlier than May 18, 2020.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED with respect to all courthouses within the 6th Judicial Circuit:

1. Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 30370, all bench trials, including juvenile delinquency trials, are continued to no earlier than May 18, 2020 unless authorized by the Chief Judge.
2. A bench trial may proceed prior to May 18, 2020 only upon written request of the respective Presiding Judge with written approval from the Chief Judge.

3. This Order relates to in-court proceedings and shall not be construed to prohibit any remote appearance or testimony authorized by Administrative Order 2020-05.

Entered this 8th day of April 2020.



Karle Koritz, Chief Judge
Sixth Judicial Circuit