

Randall B Rosenbaum

Circuit Judge
Courtroom G
Courthouse
101 E. Main St.
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Sixth Judicial Circuit
Champaign County

Telephone (217) 384-3702
Fax (217) 384-8424

To: Family Lawyers and Litigants
From: Judge Randy Rosenbaum
Re: Changes due to Coronavirus
Date: March 16, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Presiding Judge and Sheriff have closed the courthouse for the next two weeks and asked that large court calls in April be reduced significantly. I wanted to address Court G's issues for the near future.

First and foremost, my clerk Ms. Stovall, will be here this Thursday to address rescheduling of cases set in the next two weeks. She may also come in a bit next week. That is to be determined. Many of you are already emailing her to reschedule your cases. She will reply to everyone as soon as she can. Together, she and I will be looking at the cases that are set and determine their priority in rescheduling. Many lawyers, and litigants, think their cases are emergencies when they are, in fact, not emergencies.

NEXT TWO WEEKS:

The Courthouse will be closed for the next two weeks and it is tentatively scheduled to reopen on May 30. During this time, there will be NO court proceedings in Courtroom G. There are many matters set in the next two weeks.

Plenary OPs – The Court will summarily extend emergency or interim Orders and reset the plenary hearing date, likely April 2 or 9. The clerk is to send notice.

Trials – The Court will be in contact with counsel to find new trial dates. If any of the matters are resolved, please contact the court clerk ASAP.

1:15 pm calls –All the upcoming calls, particularly those on Mondays and Wednesdays, have large numbers of cases through mid-April. As counsel is aware, most of these uncontested dates are simply for status and a new date is obtained. Sometimes a mediator or LGAL is appointed. Please see below about how to handle these matters in the future. The Court has been trying to limit the contested calls on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Again, please see below about how to handle these matters.

Through April and perhaps beyond, lawyers and litigants should NOT appear in court at any 1:15 pm call:

1. If the parties are agreeing to a continuance.
 - They should contact the court clerk prior to the court date, if possible, by email and she will provide a new date.
2. If the parties are asking for the appointment of a mediator or a limited guardian ad litem.
 - They should contact the Judge prior to court, if possible, by email. Please provide a recommendation for mediator (not LGAL), and how much time the parties may need to pay their portion for the LGAL fee. The Court will then enter an Order and provide a copy to counsel along with a review date.
3. If the parties are asking for a trial date.
 - They should contact the Judge prior to court, if possible, by email. Please provide what the issue is (parenting, financial, etc.) and the estimated length of the trial. The Court will then contact the parties with proposed trial dates.

UNCONTESTED MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY CALLS AT 1:15 PM:

It has been suggested that these calls be eliminated in April but the Court finds the need to have them for prove-ups, at a minimum. The Court will be limiting the number of cases that are set. The Court encourages counsel to discuss with their colleagues ONLY setting matters that must be held in the courtroom. Make all attempts to resolve matters through email or phone conferences. If the number of cases is not reduced by agreement, this Court will unilaterally reschedule matters. Available dates to reschedule include April 27, May 4, May 11 and May 18. Please contact the court clerk to reschedule matters.

CONTESTED TUESDAY AND THURSDAY CALLS AT 1:15 PM:

The Court will be limiting the number of cases that are set by restricting the matters to those that are emergencies and necessary. At least through April 2020, and perhaps beyond, ONLY the following matters will be set for Tuesday and Thursdays:

1. Petitions for serious endangerment
2. Petitions for contempt
3. Petitions for parenting time abuse
4. Orders of Protection
5. Petitions to establish initial parenting responsibilities, and support.
6. Petitions for exclusive possession of the home.

The Court will NOT allow matters to be set for modification of parenting responsibilities, discovery motions and modifications to child support or maintenance. As to the latter two, the parties should discuss submitting financial affidavits and having the Court determine the issue in a summary fashion. If parties have these types of Petitions already set for a Tuesday or Thursday, please contact the clerk to reschedule into May or June. The Court will review the calendars and, if those matters are not rescheduled by agreement, the Court will unilaterally reschedule them.