

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF DU PAGE)

Candice Adams
e-filed in the 18th Judicial Circuit Court
***** DuPage County *****
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF MODIFICATIONS AND) Administrative Order 26-6
ADDITIONS TO THE CIRCUIT COURT RULES)

WHEREAS, the Circuit Judges of the 18th Judicial Circuit adopted local Circuit Court Rules on November 16, 2004; and

WHEREAS, from time to time the Circuit Judges find it necessary to ratify and codify certain revisions, amendments and additions to said local Circuit Court Rules; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2026, **Circuit Court Rules 1.21, 14.27, 14.43 and Article 38 were amended and attached as Exhibit A.**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that these changes, shown as adopted in the exhibit attached hereto, was adopted into the local Circuit Court Rules to be effective immediately.

ENTER:



Mia M. McPherson
Acting Chief Judge

Dated: April 7, 2026
Wheaton, Illinois

(a) A majority of the Circuit Judges shall select, by secret ballot, one of their number to serve as Chief Judge for a three-year term commencing the first Monday in December of 1996 and shall select a Chief Judge in like manner every three years thereafter. The election shall be held in September of each election year on a date established by the Chief Judge with at least fifteen (15) days written notice.

(b) A Circuit Judge elected to the office of Chief Judge may not serve more than one consecutive three-year term and no Circuit Judge who was elected Chief Judge to fill a vacancy the term of which will not expire for 24 months or more shall be elected to a succeeding three-year term.

(c) *Acting Chief Judge.* The Chief Judge shall appoint one of the Circuit Judges to act as Chief Judge in the Chief Judge's absence, who shall have the same powers and duties as Chief Judge. In the event the Acting Chief Judge is also unavailable, the most senior Circuit Judge on the premises shall act as Chief Judge.

(d) *Vacancy.* Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Chief Judge, any two Circuit Judges may call a meeting of the Circuit Judges on seven (7) days' notice to select a Circuit Judge to fill such vacancy in the same manner as in (a).

1.21 AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

(a) The Chief Judge may enter any general orders in the exercise of the Chief Judge's general administrative authority, including but not limited to orders providing for the assignment of judges, general or specialized divisions, and times and places of holding court, as provided by applicable statutes (e.g., 735 ILCS 5/1-104), Supreme Court Rules (e.g., Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21), or Local Rules. The Chief Judge may appoint personnel to assist in the performance of the Chief Judge's duties.

(b) The Chief Judge may, from time to time, as the Chief Judge deems appropriate, issue administrative orders in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 21(b).

(c) Copies of all administrative orders issued by the Chief Judge shall be filed with the Circuit Clerk, who shall maintain them as permanent court records. ~~All such administrative orders shall be available for inspection as public records, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.~~

(d) All administrative orders relating to Judicial and case assignments shall be ~~submitted for publication in a local paper on or before their effective date, if practical.~~ posted on the DuPage County Circuit Court website, which may be accessed by following this link:

https://www.dupagecourts.gov/18th_judicial_circuit_court/administrative_orders.php

1.22 (RESERVED)

1.23 MOTION FOR SUBSTITUTION OF JUDGE FOR CAUSE

(a) Except for cases assigned to one of the Field Courts, the following procedure shall be followed in all cases in which a Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause has been filed:

(1) All Motions for Substitution of Judge for Cause must be filed, supported by affidavit, before the judge from whom substitution is sought.

(2) After a Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause is filed, the named judge shall, after determining that the petition meets the applicable statutory and legal requirements for a hearing, immediately transfer the motion to his or her Presiding Judge for assignment or hearing. A Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause naming a Presiding Judge shall be transferred to the Chief Judge for assignment or hearing.

(3) Without leave of court, no judge may be subpoenaed to testify at the hearing on a Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause. The judge named in the motion need not testify, but may submit an affidavit if the judge wishes.

(4) If the Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause is granted, the case shall be assigned to another judge within the Division, or if the motion is heard by the Chief Judge, he or she may retain the case.

(b) When a Motion for Substitution of Judge for Cause has been filed in a case assigned to the Field Courts, all of the above Rules shall apply, except the case shall be transferred to the Presiding Judge of the Traffic Division on a date approximately two weeks following the motion's presentment, at which time the motion shall be heard. If the motion is denied, the case shall be transferred back to the originating Field Court on the arresting officer's next regular court date. If the motion is granted, the case shall be transferred to the misdemeanor courtroom assigned to hear cases from the originating Field Court.

(d) The Approved List of Mediators will be updated from time to time to add the names of new members and remove those who either no longer qualify or who the Presiding Judge of Chancery determines have been unable to participate in this program to the extent they were initially expected to do so.

(e) A Mediator, approved and certified by this Circuit and acting pursuant to these Rules, shall have judicial immunity as provided for in Illinois Supreme Court Rule 99(b).

(f) The Presiding Judge of Chancery (or, at the Presiding Judge's direction, the Program) has the discretion to determine the frequency and order of assignment of mediation cases to mediators on the roster of approved Mediators.

(h) A Mediator shall be compensated according to the rate established by the Court.

14.27 CONFIDENTIALITY, APPLICABILITY OF UNIFORM MEDIATION ACT

(a) Mediations conducted pursuant to these Rules shall be governed by the Illinois Uniform Mediation Act, [735 710 ILCS 35/1](#), *et seq.* (The "Uniform Act") and "Mediation Communications," as defined therein, shall be deemed privileged and confidential, subject to those limitations as are provided in the Uniform Act.

14.28 ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN MEDIATION

(a) The parties to a case which is scheduled for mediation pursuant to a Mediation Referral Order hereunder, are required to attend. If either of the parties is a corporation, that party must be represented by an individual with full authority to negotiate a settlement on behalf of the party. It is not required that such counsel participate, unless their participation would otherwise be required in a corresponding court proceeding, but any party to a mediation hereunder is entitled to have legal counsel present with them as they deem appropriate.

(b) The mediation will commence with introductory comments by the Mediator. The parties will be asked to execute a Confidentiality Agreement at that time and to make any introductory comments as may be appropriate. Thereafter, the Mediator may either work with the group all together or separate each side, allowing for the parties to caucus (a process which allows the Mediator to speak privately with each side outside the presence of the others). The parties and their counsel may also step away as needed to confer with each other. The mediation may be continued, if all agreed determine that a continuance could help facilitate settlement, but no continuance which would require the rescheduling of a trial date may proceed without court approval.

either party, any child, stepparent, other relative, counsel or anyone else involved in the case, he or she shall decline the appointment or disclose that relationship to the parties and may be removed for that reason. If there is a conflict, the Program shall provide the parties with another court-approved mediator.

(b) A mediator who is a mental health professional shall not provide counseling or therapy to the parties or their children during or after the mediation. An attorney-mediator may not represent either party in any matter during the mediation process or in a dispute between the parties after the mediation process.

(c) No person will be eligible to serve as a Mediator on a case if that person, or a member of that person's practice, agency or business entity or someone with whom that person shares office space has served or is serving as an attorney, CASA volunteer or Guardian ad Litem in that case.

14.42 REPORTING RISK OF BODILY HARM AND ABUSE

(a) A mediator shall promptly reveal information to the appropriate law enforcement agency to the extent it appears necessary to prevent a party from committing an act that would result in death or serious bodily harm.

(b) Attorneys, when acting as mediators, shall reveal information required by Rule 1.6 "Confidentiality of Information" under the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

(c) The mandated reporting requirement of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, 325 ILCS 5/1 *et seq.*, as applied to mental health professionals shall also apply to all mediators.

14.43 CONFIDENTIALITY, APPLICABILITY OF UNIFORM MEDIATION ACT, IMMUNITY AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

(a) Mediations conducted pursuant to these Rules shall be governed by the Illinois Uniform Mediation Act, **735 ILCS 35/1**, *et seq.* (The "Uniform Act") and "Mediation Communications," as defined therein, shall be deemed privileged and confidential, subject to those limitations as are provided in the Uniform Act.

(b) Except as provided herein, the mediator and the parties shall be barred from testifying as to any statement made at the mediation sessions. Neither mediation records nor the work product of the mediator shall be subpoenaed in any proceeding except by leave of the Court.

(c) The mediator shall require the parties to execute a confidentiality agreement and complete a screening to determine if an impediment to mediation exists. The Guardianship Family Engagement Mediation Program in consultation with the ADR Administrator shall create the Confidentiality Agreement and screening process.

ARTICLE 38: EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

~~(a) The 18th Judicial Circuit Court has been approved by the Illinois Supreme Court to permit extended media coverage on an experimental basis in accordance with the provisions contained in Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 2634 and the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois. Such extended media coverage shall only be allowed in cases in which the assigned judge, in his or her sole discretion, authorizes such coverage. The extended media coverage may be terminated at any time in the sole discretion of the assigned judge. Pursuant to the above Supreme Court Order, the judge's decision is not appealable.~~

Media Access. To facilitate trust, confidence, and transparency in the Illinois judiciary, and pursuant to the Illinois Supreme Court's Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois, extended media coverage is allowed in the 18th Judicial Circuit Court at the discretion of the judge presiding over the proceeding for which a request for extended media coverage is made. Granting a request for extended media coverage in no way limits the judge in his or her existing power, authority, or responsibility to control the conduct of any proceeding, maintain courtroom decorum and prevent distractions, guarantee the safety of the courtroom, including any party, witness, or juror, and ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice. No appeal may be taken from a judge's decision to deny, limit, amend, or terminate extended media coverage of a court proceeding.

~~(b) Construction. These local rules This rule shall be construed so as not to conflict with the Illinois Supreme Court Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois, any other section of these rules, or any applicable state or federal law. It remains requisite for t~~
~~The N-news media organizations to be familiar with are subject to the rules regarding the general use of cellular phones and other electronic devices within the courthouse, both inside and outside of the courtrooms. courtrooms and outside of the courtroom, but still within the confines of the courthouse.~~

(c) Media Coordinator and Court Media Liaison

(1) A representative or representative acting on behalf of all news media organizations shall be selected to organize and submit requests for extended media coverage and administer all aspects of extended media coverage for the news media. The media coordinator shall be selected by and among representatives of the news media and shall be approved by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge may at his or her discretion appoint a media coordinator in the event the various news media cannot agree on a media coordinator.

(2) The Court Administrator, or his or her designee, shall serve as the court media liaison. The court media liaison shall work with the media coordinator on all matters pertaining to extended media coverage.

(d) Requests, Objections and Orders

(1) Requests for extended media coverage shall be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of the 18th Judicial Circuit under the case number of the case for which extended media coverage is requested **at least seven (7) days in advance of the time the proceeding sought to be covered is scheduled to begin unless a proceeding is not scheduled at least seven (7) days out. The request may be permitted on shorter notice if a proceeding is not scheduled at least seven (7) days in advance.** All subsequent requests or objections shall be filed in the same manner. The Clerk of the Court may coordinate with the designated media coordinator for an electronic filing of the request by means of email or facsimile. The form of a request for extended media coverage shall be as prescribed in "Appendix C."

(2) *Notice of Requests.* The ~~Clerk of the Circuit Court~~ **media requestor** shall provide written notice of all filed requests for extended media coverage to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, and the court media liaison. ~~The media coordinator shall provide a copy of all filed requests for extended media coverage to the court media liaison.~~ Upon receipt of a request for extended media coverage, the court media liaison shall inform the judge to whom the subject case is assigned and the Chief Judge. The Clerk of the Court shall schedule the matter before the court as soon as **practical practicable.**

(e) Objections by Parties shall be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of the 18th Judicial Circuit **within three (3) days of receiving notice of the request for extended media coverage.** The form of a party's objection to extended media coverage shall be as prescribed in "Appendix C."

(f) Objections by Witnesses shall be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of the 18th Judicial Circuit **as soon as practicable at any time prior to testifying. Objections made by a testifying victim in a sexual abuse case or any other forcible felony prosecution, and by police informants, undercover agents, and relocated witnesses, will not be denied absent good cause shown.** The form of a witness's objection to extended media coverage shall be as prescribed in "Appendix C."

(g) The ~~Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court~~ **objecting party** shall provide written notice of all filed objections to extended media coverage to **the requestor of extended media**

coverage, all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, ~~the media coordinator~~ and the court media liaison. Upon receipt of an objection to extended media coverage, the court media liaison shall inform the judge to whom the case is assigned and the Chief Judge.

(h) There shall be no filing fees associated with filing a request for extended media coverage or an objection to extended media coverage.

(~~h~~ i) The assigned judge shall enter a written order on all requests for extended media coverage specifying the scope of coverage, if any, permitted ~~prior to the commencement of the proceedings. The judge may rule on a request for extended media coverage based on the filed papers alone, but may also consider affidavits, proffered evidence or testimony, and oral arguments.~~ An order for extended media coverage shall be effective for only the proceedings specified in the written order. The form of an order for extended media coverage shall be as prescribed in the "Appendix C."

(~~i~~ j) Calendar days shall be used for the purpose of calculating the time frames for the filing of requests and objections contained in the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Court of Illinois.

(~~j~~ k) Equipment and Courtroom Conduct.

(1) All equipment used by media personnel in the courtroom during court proceedings must operate quietly and without drawing attention, so as not to disrupt or distract from the proceedings, and media personnel may be required to demonstrate compliance with these requirements prior to the commencement of proceedings.

(2) No audio or recording equipment may interfere with courtroom amplification systems or electronic recording systems. Parabolic or other highly sensitive long-range microphones are prohibited.

(3) No auxiliary lighting shall be used in the courtroom, nor shall any light or other display be detectable to participants to indicate when any equipment is in operation. Flash photography is prohibited.

(~~2-4~~) The court media liaison or designee will direct the news media to their assigned locations, ~~which areas will provide reasonable access to the proceedings to be covered.~~ Equipment shall be operated from a fixed position, and news media personnel shall not move about the courtroom while proceedings are ongoing. Still photographers and videographers must stay seated unless they are positioned

beyond the last row of spectators' seats. **Whenever practicable, sound recording equipment and its operating personnel should be located outside the courtroom. No equipment may be operated during a court recess or during "off the record" conversations meant to be private, such as sidebars.**

(5) News media may be required to pool equipment and personnel as space limitations require, according to the restrictions set forth below and/or as ordered by the court. It is the media coordinator's responsibility to set up pooling arrangements that follow the judge's order for the proceeding.

(i) Photography. No more than two news media representatives may take photos during a court proceeding.

(ii) Audiovisual recording. No more than two news media representatives may perform video recording during a court proceeding.

(iii) Digital Media. Any number of media representatives may be designated to perform online journalism (live-tweeting, blogging, posting case developments) during a court proceeding.

(iv) Sound recording. No more than one audio system, with designated personnel to operate it, shall be permitted.

(v) Livestreaming. No more than one livestream of court proceedings, with designated personnel to operate it, shall be permitted.

(vi) Use of electronic devices for other activities. In accordance with the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Electronic Devices, any number of media representatives may be designated to use portable electronic devices during a court proceeding for notetaking or other activities.

(3 6) In the courtroom, members of the news media shall:

(i) Refrain from making comments in the courtroom during court proceedings;

(ii) Refrain from commenting to or within the hearing of the jury or any member thereof at any time before the jury is dismissed;

(iii) Refrain from conducting interviews in the courtroom; and

(iv) Comply with the orders and directives of the court.

(4 7) Focusing on and photographing materials on counsel tables, materials on evidence carts, or materials that have not yet been presented as evidence is prohibited.

(k1) General Provisions

(1) The judge may order the news media to install any manner of temporary courtroom alterations including, but not limited to, a screen or divider to conceal the jury from the view of recording equipment. No permanent installation of any audio or visual recording equipment shall be made nor shall any court facility be altered, unless approved in advance by the Chief Judge. All expenses for permanent or temporary installations shall be borne by the news media.

(2) Extended media coverage of jury selection and jurors is prohibited.

(2 3) If permission for extended media coverage is granted, all non-testimonial hearings shall be in the courtroom to which the case is assigned. Any testimonial hearing or trial shall be heard in courtroom 4000.

(3 4) Permission for extended media coverage shall not be sub-contracted or assigned.

(4 5) These guidelines shall not preclude coverage of a judicial proceeding by other members of the news media who have not been granted permission for extended media coverage.

(5 6) Courthouse security policies require all persons and equipment entering the courthouse to pass through a magnetometer. News media representatives will not be permitted to bypass screening and should allow sufficient time to go through the magnetometer in advance of the commencement of proceedings. Court proceedings may not be interrupted to allow installation of media equipment or personnel.

(6 7) Film, videotape, photography and audio reproductions obtained by and through extended media coverage shall not affect the official court record of the proceeding for the purposes of appeal or otherwise, nor shall the same be admissible as evidence in the proceeding out of which it arose or in any proceeding subsequent or collateral thereto.

(7 8) The media coordinator and all media representatives and personnel are charged with the actual and constructive knowledge of the provisions contained in the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Court of Illinois and this rule. By the submission of a request for extended media coverage the media coordinator, respective agents from involved news media organizations and designees of such acknowledge and agree to abide by all applicable provisions.

(8 9) In addition to contempt and any other sanctions allowed by law, the judge or Chief Judge may remove anyone violating the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Courts of Illinois or this rule from the courtroom and revoke the privileges for extended media coverage.

(9 10) If the media coordinator or any media representative fails to comply with the conditions set forth in the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in Circuit Court of Illinois, this rule or other orders imposed by the judge or Chief Judge, the judge or Chief Judge may impose restrictions on the dissemination, broadcast and/or publication of extended media coverage.

~~(10) This rule is promulgated as a pilot project in accordance with the Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 2634. This rule is subject to revision or termination at any time and without advanced notice.~~