

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-12
TEMPORARY ORDER - COVID-19 PROCEDURE

This order supersedes Administrative Order 2021-15 entered on August 27, 2021. This order is effective February 28, 2022.

Whereas, the Supreme Court's order of June 30, 2021, in M.R. 30370, allows circuits to relax or eliminate social distancing requirements.


Whereas, the Supreme Court's order of February 22, 2022, in M.R. 30370, provides circuits may operate under specific guidance concerning building access and face coverings, stating that the wearing of masks in courthouses is permitted, but not required.

It is therefore ORDERED that, effective February 28, 2022, and subject to ongoing review and modifications, the following procedures are in effect in the 17th Judicial Circuit:

1. **Masks / Face Coverings.** The wearing of a face covering or mask within any court facility is permitted, but not required. Persons choosing to wear a face covering or mask may be directed by a judge to remove their face covering or mask if deemed necessary for court purposes, such as when addressing the court or testifying.

2. **Virtual Proceedings.** The Court will continue to operate with increased reliance on virtual proceedings and hearings pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 45 and 241. The Circuit is capable of a hybrid/blended mode of virtual and in person hearings in all courtrooms. In other words, litigants or lawyers may choose to attend court either virtually or in person. However, note that judges may specify in individual cases or settings that proceedings will be conducted only in person, or they may require a particular party or attorney to attend a proceeding in person. Further, note that virtual attendance remains strongly encouraged, especially during periods of high community COVID-19 metrics.

Those participating in a virtual hearing should plan to timely appear as scheduled and should become familiar with the evolving protocols at <https://tinyurl.com/virtualcourt17>.

ENTER: _____

John S. Lowry
Chief Judge
17th Judicial Circuit Court

DATED: 2/25/22