

18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
505 N. County Farm Road,
Wheaton, IL 60187



KENNETH L. POPEJOY
Chief Judge

SUZANNE H. ARMSTRONG
Court Administrator

October 25, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release
Office of the Chief Judge
505 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187*

CHIEF JUDGE ANNOUNCES REINSTATEMENT OF PERIODIC IMPRISONMENT PROGRAM

Chief Judge Kenneth L. Popejoy entered an Administrative Order reinstating the Periodic Imprisonment Program (Work Release) as a sentencing option effective November 1st, 2022. The Program had been suspended in 2020 due to the risk related to COVID. Judge Popejoy thanked Sheriff James Mendrick for working diligently to reinstate the program while maintaining high standards for the health and safety of staff and those who are housed in the jail. “Sheriff Mendrick has done an outstanding job operating a healthy and safe correctional facility during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Periodic Imprisonment Program is a vital sentencing option that allows individuals sentenced to jail to stay gainfully employed without disruption. I am very pleased that the Judges of the 18th Judicial Circuit continue to have this important sentencing option going forward.”

Sheriff Mendrick said employment is a key factor in keeping families together and giving people purpose and stability. He thanked Judge Popejoy for partnering with his office on this program. “We are all aware of a dwindling workforce in many different walks of life right now, so job stability could end up being one of the more important programs we participate in,” Mendrick said. “Work Release is a companion program to our job training in our Correctional Facility that provides access to jobs. That access is a key piece that keeps recidivism at its lowest rates. We understand the importance of employment and being stable, so you don’t have to re-enter a world of crime to make money.”

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