

FILED

JAN 10 2024

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No 2024- 3

Krista A. Miller
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY ILLINOIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING TEMPORARY JO DAVIESS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOGISTICS AND PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, per the Chief Judge's Administrative Order 2023-17, filed 12-7-23, due to Jo Daviess County's Courthouse Renovation Project (CRP), all Jo Daviess County court facilities and operations, including courtrooms and the offices of the Circuit Clerk, Court Specialist, State's Attorney, Public Defender, and Probation, are temporarily relocated to the facility located at 9816 US Hwy 20 W, Galena, IL 61036;

WHEREAS, although all time frames specified are necessarily best estimates and are likely to be modified as necessity dictates, it is desirable that all court personnel and consumers of court services have as early and clear an understanding of anticipated time frames and procedures as possible;

WHEREAS, the following, tentative, time frames, events, and information inform the purpose of this order:

Physical move out and quitting of the courthouse premises is to begin in mid-January, 2024, and continue through February, 2024. This may impact parking, courthouse ingress/egress, scheduling, and all other court functions.

Dismantling of Courtroom 2 (the small courtroom) is to begin in early February, 2024, leaving one physical courtroom available until the move to the temporary courthouse facility is complete, some time in March, 2024.

With the exception of a jury trial previously scheduled the week of 3-4-24, no hearings, other than hearings required by law to be held (eg emergency orders, criminal bond hearings, etc), will be scheduled or conducted between 3-4-24 and 3-15-24. Any hearings which must be held during, and around, this time will likely, necessarily, be conducted remotely unless leave of court is otherwise given.

The temporary court facility, expected to be operational in mid-March, 2024, has one physical courtroom, useable for in person proceedings. This will impact scheduling and dockets. Parties, counsel, witnesses, and all consumers of court services should anticipate heavy reliance on remote proceedings in accordance with law. Attention is directed to the following resources regarding court scheduling and remote proceedings:

The Jo Daviess County website: <https://www.jodaviesscountyil.gov/>

The Jo Daviess County Circuit Clerk's page:

https://www.jodaviesscountyil.gov/departments/circuit_clerk/index.php

The Circuit Clerk's page specifically includes links to Jo Daviess County's Administrative Order Regarding Remote Hearings (Video Conferencing/Zoom) in Jo Daviess County, general remote hearing information, and specific Zoom links for each judge's remote courtroom.

The Jo Daviess County Circuit Clerk has also made an app available for convenience. Download:



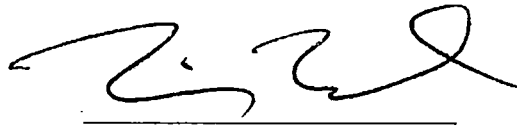
Diligent, frequent tracking of scheduled court matters, in person and remote, is strongly encouraged.

WHEREAS, the process of vacating the courthouse, establishing a functional temporary courthouse, and continuing to administer justice is a massive undertaking, necessary to facilitate the fulfillment of Jo Daviess County's CRP, the understanding and patience of all Jo Daviess County judicial system participants is, and will be, greatly appreciated throughout.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned, Presiding Judge in Jo Daviess County, hereby Orders that the temporary move from the Jo Daviess County Courthouse to the temporary court facility located at 9816 US Hwy 20 W, Galena, IL 61036, proceed, generally, as set out above, subject to adjustment and modification as time and circumstances may require.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: 1-10-24

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. J. Ward', is written above a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kevin J Ward, Presiding Judge