

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**RE: Public Access to Video and Teleconference Hearings**

The United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois has taken significant measures to fulfill its mission and keep both its civil and criminal court functions operating in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic national emergency.

On April 1, 2020, Chief Judge Sara Darrow entered General Order 20-03 authorizing the use of video and telephone conferencing in certain criminal procedures pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act. In addition, in her Amended General Order 20-01, Chief Judge Darrow directed that all civil hearings be conducted by telephone or video conference.

This Court will continue to provide public access to hearings before the Court during this national emergency via audio/telephonic means. In that regard, any member of the public or media who want to participate in a hearing must:

- 1) Contact the Clerk's Office prior to the hearing at: [media@ilcd.uscourts.gov](mailto:media@ilcd.uscourts.gov). Individuals who do not have email may contact the Clerk's Office at (309) 671-7117.
- 2) Participants should provide their contact information (phone number);
- 3) Participants will be provided information on how to connect to the hearing via email in advance of the hearing;
- 4) Access for members of the public and media will be AUDIO ONLY; and
- 5) Participants are reminded of the prohibitions regarding photographing, recording and broadcasting of court proceedings (Local Rule 83.7). [http://www.ilcd.circ7.dcn/clerks/docs/2017-10%20Local\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.ilcd.circ7.dcn/clerks/docs/2017-10%20Local_Rules.pdf). Any participant who violate Local Rule 83.7 may face sanctions including removal of court issued media credentials, restricted entry to future hearings, denial of entry to future hearings, or any other sanctions deemed necessary by the judicial officer.