

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

**GENERAL ORDER:** 2020 D 13 Amended

**SUBJECT:** Procedure to Submit Non-Emergency Motions during COVID-19 Pandemic

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

On a temporary basis, during such time as court operations are reduced pursuant to General Administrative Order No. 2020-01, a party may file a motion for non-emergency relief from the Circuit Court only as follows:

- a. The movant must file the motion for non-emergency relief with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The movant must then send a copy of the motion and this General Order to all parties of record<sup>1</sup> via email transmission.
- b. If the movant follows the requirements of Paragraph (a), then:
  - i. the responding party shall be automatically granted 21 days to respond or otherwise plead from the time of receipt of the non-emergency motion. If an objection is filed, the movant of the motion shall be granted 7 days to respond to the objection. If the objection is denied then the court shall grant additional time to respond to the motion.
  - ii. the moving party shall be automatically granted 7 days thereafter to reply to the response to the non-emergency motion.
  - iii. all submissions for adjudication to the court shall be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Notwithstanding the above, no exhibits containing financial information shall be filed with the Clerk but shall be submitted directly to the Court.
  - iv. After the time to reply expires the movant shall submit the non-emergency motion and any responses and replies to the Circuit Court (along with all necessary and referenced exhibits) via e-mail transmission with all counsel of record or self-represented parties included as recipients of the e-mail to the following individuals:
    1. the Court Coordinator for any judge who maintains an individual calendar, or
    2. the Court Coordinator for the applicable judicial team, or
    3. the Division Administrator for any judge who does not have a Court Coordinator, or;
    4. any other method directed by the judge assigned to the matter.<sup>2</sup>
  - v. Upon submission of the non-emergency motion, responses and replies and all exhibits, the non-emergency motion shall be taken under advisement by the judge presiding over the calendar to which the case is assigned.

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<sup>1</sup> The movant may send the documents via email after e-filing them with the Clerk even if she has not yet received notification that her filing has been approved. If she chooses to send her documents before receiving approval and file-stamped copies of the same, she shall send all file-stamped copies to all parties of record within 24 hours of receipt of approval from the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

<sup>2</sup> A list of contact information for all Court Coordinators and the Division Administrator is attached.


- vi. Subsequent to receipt of all relevant pleadings, the Court shall, through its staff, communicate whether it shall issue a written ruling, conduct a remote argument or hearing designating the manner, date and time or defer the matter to a date when the Court returns to full operations.
- vii. If additional information or documentation is sought by the Court in order to adjudicate the non-emergency motion, that request will be made to all counsel of record or self-represented parties. The request for such information or documentation shall set forth the party, parties, or counsel responsible for submission of such information or documentation. All parties and all counsel of record shall strictly comply with any request for additional information or documentation. NO ADDITIONAL information, documentation or other materials shall be submitted to the Court other than those requested by the Court.
- viii. Parties may agree, via an Agreed Temporary Order pursuant to General Order 2020 D 04 to a briefing schedule other than the presumptive schedule set forth above.
- c. All motions for non-emergency relief from the Circuit Court submitted by email shall contain the email address and contact telephone number of each counsel of record in the cause or the self-represented parties.
- d. All email submissions concerning motions for non-emergency relief from the Circuit Court submitted shall use the title: "Motion for Non-Emergency Relief", Case Number, and Calendar Number.

e.g., "Motion for Non-Emergency Relief"; Case No. 2020 D 1234; Calendar 01.

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Dated the \_\_\_th day of April 2020. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and published. This Order replaces General Order 2020 D 13 which was entered March 24, 2020.

ENTERED:

  
**HON. GRACE G. DICKLER**  
Presiding Judge  
Domestic Relations Division

Presiding Judge  
Grace G. Dickler  
April 27, 2020  
Circuit Court - 1521