

The State of Illinois, like most of the United States, is experiencing an unparalleled surge in Coronavirus infections. This fact has been recognized and acknowledged by the US District Court in the 7th Amended General order 20-01 entered by Chief Judge Sara Darrow pursuant to authority given her under the CARES act on October 30, 2020. That order provides that “in response to the recent COVID case surge in many counties within our district and the need to keep the public and our employees safe,” all jury trials and public gatherings in our courthouses shall be suspended until January 25, 2021. The spirit and intent of this order would reasonably apply to all other in-person hearings either being converted to a videoconference or continued pursuant to the CARES Act. Consequently, counsel and the public are hereby notified that any case pending on Judge McDade’s docket and scheduled for in-person hearing prior to 1/25/21 will either be converted to videoconference pursuant to the CARES Act or will be continued to a date after 1/25/21. Counsel is directed to notify the Court no later than two days prior to any in-person hearing set prior to 1/25/21 of defendant’s consent and, if pertinent, their position as to any serious damage to the interest of justice if the matter is continued from its present setting.