

STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

C. ROBERT TOBIN III
Circuit Judge



BOONE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
601 N. MAIN STREET
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61101

May 26, 2020

In anticipation of resuming all court proceedings, though in a different fashion, I want to update you on certain issues in Boone County.

- (1) Jury Trials – Criminal jury trials will resume June 15, 2020 and shall take place in Courtroom 1 and Courtroom 2 with some modifications. Prior to the start of the trial, the judge handling the matter will advise the attorneys as to the procedure that will be used and the expectations of the Court. Civil jury trials will not be conducted over the summer.
- (2) Traffic Court – For cases that do not involve a public defender and do not require a court reporter, the traffic cases will be heard at the Belvidere Community Building at 111 W. 1st St. on Mondays beginning on June 8, 2020; all other traffic cases will be heard at the courthouse. For many, it will bring back memories to the times when most traffic cases were handled at the local village halls. If a defendant or attorney is unsure of where their case will be heard, they should contact the Circuit Clerk. The defendants and attorney will enter the front door and exit the side doors. Everyone is required to leave all purses and personal belongings in their car unless they are needed for court (e.g. proof of insurance).
- (3) Courtroom Procedures – Due to the differences in the size of the courtrooms and the types of cases each judge hears, each judge will have slightly different courtroom procedures. Included herein are the Standing Orders for Courtroom 1.
- (4) Timeliness of Attorneys and Litigants – Because the cases are spread out for social distancing reasons, it is imperative that all attorneys (and any litigant that has been court ordered to appear) appear on time. It is unlikely cases will be called outside of their time slot for persons arriving late.
- (5) Masks – As set out in General Order 1.03, all persons entering the courthouse and the Community Building shall be wearing masks or face coverings.

During times such as this, safety overrides efficiency. Please be prepared and abide by the rules.

Sincerely,

C. Robert Tobin III
Circuit Judge