



17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

WINNEBAGO COUNTY *and* BOONE COUNTY

State of Illinois

What happens if the courthouse closes on a day I have court for an Order of Protection case?

Administrative Order 2019-02



When the courthouse is closed to the public due to unanticipated events such as inclement weather, the Court will construe that date as a "court holiday" for purposes of 750 ILCS 60/220(f), which states as follows:

"Termination date. Any order of protection which would expire on a court holiday shall instead expire at the close of the next court business day"

What does this Administrative Order mean?

If the courthouse closes unexpectedly because of weather or another reason, the order of protection that is due to expire will automatically extend to the next day the courthouse is open.

The term "Order of Protection" includes Orders of Protection, Stalking No Contact Orders, Civil No Contact Orders, and Firearms Restraining Orders.

What do you, as the petitioner, have to do?



A petitioner is the person who has asked for, or filed, the Order of Protection.

Your order will automatically extend to the next business day the court is open. If you want the order to be extended past this date, **you must request an extension. To request an extension, follow these steps:**

- **Call or come to the Circuit Clerk's office on the first day the court reopens to request an extension of the order.**
- The Circuit Clerk will schedule a time for you to speak with a judge the same day.
- Attend court at the time provided by the Circuit Clerk and request the judge extend the order.
- If you are attending court in-person, please plan to spend at least an hour at the courthouse.

- If you are making the request by calling the Circuit Clerk’s office, you will be provided instructions for how to see the judge on Zoom. If appearing in front of the judge by Zoom, please be in a quiet location with internet access and a device that can connect to the internet.

What happens if you do not contact the Clerk to request an extension?

If you have an **Emergency or Ex-Parte Order** that was due to expire:

The order will expire, but your request for the Plenary or Final Order of Protection will remain pending. You will be sent a new court date, called a status court date, for your Plenary or Final Order request.

Please note, if your Emergency or Ex-Parte Order expires, **you no longer have an active order of protection in place even though you have an upcoming court date.** If you are in danger, please seek assistance from local law enforcement.

If your court date was for something different, such as a motion or hearing, please contact the Circuit Clerk’s office for information about getting a new court date.

Where can I find out if the courthouse is closed?

Courthouse closures are listed on the Court’s website (illinois17th.com), the Court’s Facebook page (17th Judicial Circuit Court- Winnebago and Boone Counties), and all local news outlets.

Helpful Numbers and Local Resources

Winnebago County Circuit Clerk’s Office: 815-319-4500

Boone County Circuit Clerk’s Office: 815-544-0371

Remedies Renewing Lives (serving Boone and Winnebago Counties): 815-962-6102

Winnebago County Domestic Violence Assistance Center: 815-516-2440

City of Rockford Family Peace Center: 779-348-7600

Legal Self Help Center: askthecourtnav@gmail.com

NIU College of Law Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic: 815-962-9980

Prairie State Legal Services: 815-965-2902



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