

CIRCUIT COURT OF ILLINOIS

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

INDEX

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS ENTERED IN 2023

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**SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023 – 1

SUBJECT: REMOTE PROCEEDINGS IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

WHEREAS Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45 requires every county to adopt rules and procedures for the use of remote proceedings in the trial court and

WHEREAS the Resident Circuit Judge of Douglas County is retiring effective March 31, 2023 and a replacement shall be selected by the Illinois Supreme Court and

WHEREAS the new Resident Circuit Judge of Douglas County may offer different options as to the use of remote proceedings than the current judge:

THEREFORE: Retroactive to January 1, 2023, and until such time that a new Douglas County Administrative Order is entered, all case types and proceedings are exempt from Rule 45 and, unless permission is granted from the trial court, all participants shall appear in person.

Date: 3/8/23

ENTER: 
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-2

ISSUES RELATED TO DOUGLAS COUNTY

WHEREAS Judge Rick Broch retired as Presiding Judge of Douglas County and

WHEREAS the Illinois Supreme Court has appointed Kate Watson to replace him as Circuit Judge, to be sworn in on May 2, 2023 and;

WHEREAS Kate Watson currently serves as Douglas County State's Attorney and will have a conflict of interest in Douglas County criminal cases and some other matters and

WHEREAS Champaign County Judge Chad Beckett has been substituted as judge in many Champaign County family law cases, including marital and non-marital matters:

THEREFORE: Effective May 2, 2023 and until further Order of the Court:

1. **Presiding Judge:** Kate Watson is appointed as Presiding Judge of Douglas County.
2. **Temporary Assignments:**
 - a. Kate Watson will preside over family law cases, and other matters as assigned, in Champaign County on Wednesdays, Thursdays and the third Friday of the month; she will preside over non-conflict cases in Douglas County on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays (except the third Friday of the month).
 - b. Chad Beckett will preside over criminal, and other matters as assigned, in Douglas County on Wednesdays, Thursdays and the third Friday of the month; he will continue to preside over probate, non-conflict/non-substituted family cases, and other matters as assigned, in Champaign County on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays (except the third Friday of the month).
 - c. This schedule may change based on need. E.g. Douglas County jury trials, etc.
3. **Reassignment of Cases:** In any Champaign County family law case in which a judge was assigned the matter due to a substitution of Chad Beckett, those judges have the authority, in their sole discretion, to reassign the matter to Kate Watson and have the matter placed on her calendar.

Date: 4-24-23

ENTER: 
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-3

REAPPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 39, the following judges are hereby reappointed by the Circuit Judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit to the office of Associate Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Said terms of office shall be from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027, upon filing of their oath of office.

Anna Benjamin
Phoebe Bowers
James Coryell
Adam Dill
Rodney Forbes
Ronda Holliman
Erick Hubbard
Matthew Lee
Brett Olmstead
Lindsey Shelton
Gary Webber

Date: 6-8-23

ENTER: 
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum


IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-4

**Re: Petitions and files in cases requesting an Order of Protection and Orders for Stalking
No-Contact and Civil No-Contact**

When a Petition is filed for an Order of Protection, Stalking No-Contact Order or Civil No-Contact order, the Petition and file shall not be public and shall only be accessible to the Court, law enforcement, petitioner, victim advocate, counsel of record for either party, and the State's Attorney for the county until the petition is served on the Respondent or the Petition has been dismissed.

Date: 6-30-23

ENTER: 
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-5


Re: Code of Professional Conduct for Probation/Court Services Personnel

WHEREAS Circuit-wide Administrative Order 95-3, as amended, addresses the Code of Professional Services for Probation and Court Services within the Sixth Judicial Circuit;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court has adopted, through the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, an updated Code of Professional Conduct for Probation/Court Services Personnel which would then create consistent practices and expectations throughout the State.

THEREFORE, Circuit-wide Administrative Order 95-3, as amended, is rescinded. The Illinois Supreme Court's Code of Professional Conduct for Probation/Court Services Personnel, attached, is hereby adopted for the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Date: 6-30-23

ENTER: 
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum

**Illinois Supreme Court
Code of Professional Conduct for Probation/Court Services Personnel**

Preamble

Employment in the court system is a public trust justified by the confidence that Illinois residents hold in those individuals employed by the judicial branch. To remain faithful to that trust, probation/court services personnel must observe high standards of conduct to ensure that the integrity and independence of the courts are preserved and reflect a devotion to public service. In recognition of the essential role that probation/court services personnel play in the administration of justice in the State of Illinois, this code is adopted to promote the integrity, efficiency and professionalism of probation services.

Probation/court services personnel must engender public confidence that those matters involving life, liberty, and property are made through established procedures. An employee of the probation department shall not use the employee's position to obtain personal benefits to avoid not only impropriety but the appearance of impropriety.

It is the Supreme Court's expectation that probation/court services personnel will carry out all assigned duties with loyalty to the principles embodied in this Code. Probation/court services personnel must uphold the Constitution, laws, and legal regulations of the United States, the State of Illinois and all governments therein, and never be a party to their evasion. Probation/court services personnel shall abide by the standards in this Code and shall endeavor to expose violations of this Code wherever they may appear to exist.

Applicability

The phrase "probation/court services personnel" refers to all individuals who work within the probation/court services department. The adoption of this Code of Conduct vests no rights in

probation/court services personnel and creates no limitation on previously existing rights of the Supreme Court of Illinois, Chief Circuit Court judges and supervisory personnel with respect to the hiring, setting of terms and conditions of employment, discipline, and discharge of probation/court services employees.

Section 1. Performance of Duties

- A. All probation/court services personnel shall respect the authority and follow the directives of the court, recognizing at all times that they are an extension of the court.
- B. All probation/court services personnel shall respect the civil and legal rights of all persons.
- C. All probation/court services personnel shall recognize and respect the appropriate limits of the services offered by the probation/court services profession, and direct individuals to alternative resources when necessary and proper.
- D. Each person in the probation department shall conduct each case with appropriate concern for the probationer's welfare, the public's interest, and with no purpose of personal gain.
- E. All probation/court services personnel shall maintain relationships with colleagues in such a manner to promote mutual respect and improvement of the quality of services provided.
- F. All probation/court services personnel shall respect the importance of all elements of the criminal justice system and cultivate a professional cooperation with each segment.
- G. All probation/court services personnel shall observe and uphold all federal and state laws and comply with all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and other provisions governing probation/court services personnel in the discharge of their official duties.
- H. All probation/court services personnel shall respect and protect the right of the public to be safeguarded from criminal/delinquent activity.
- I. All probation/court services personnel shall be diligent in their responsibility to accurately record and make available for review any and all case information which would contribute to sound decisions affecting a probationer or the public safety.

- J. All probation/court services personnel shall clearly distinguish between those public statements that are personal views and those that are statements and positions on behalf of a department. Only those employees authorized to do so shall make public statements approved by the chief judge or his/her designee on behalf of the department and the court.
- K. All probation/court services personnel shall not discriminate against any employee, prospective employee, or probationer on the basis of race, sex, creed, or national origin.
- L. No probation department person shall falsify or improperly alter or destroy any records or documents relating to the operation of the probation department.
- M. All probation/court services personnel shall perform official duties properly and with diligence; every probation department employee shall maintain or obtain current licenses or certifications as required by law or court rule.
- N. All probation/court services personnel acknowledges that the possession of, use of, or impairment from a federally controlled substance, including cannabis, during working hours, and on work premises is prohibited, unless as approved by policy and procedures for business purposes.
- O. All probation/court services personnel shall not use, beyond de minimis use, any office supplies, personnel, or resources to carry out personal activities or for personal use in any unauthorized manner.
- P. All probation/court services personnel shall report without reservation any illegal behavior or violations of this code on the part of other probation department employees, probationers, or other individuals, which could affect either a probationer or the integrity of the department.
- Q. All probation/court services personnel shall immediately report to their supervisor any attempt by any person to induce them to violate any of the standards set forth in this Code of Professional Conduct.

Section 2. Confidentiality

- A. All probation/court services personnel shall maintain the integrity of private information, use reasonable efforts to seek only that personal data needed to perform their responsibilities, and not reveal case information to unauthorized persons.

- B. No probation department employee shall either initiate or repeat *ex parte* communications from litigants, witnesses, or attorneys to judges, jury members, or any other person, unless mandated by Supreme Court policy, a provision of law, or other rule or procedure.

Section 3. Improper Use of Position and Related Prohibitions

- A. No probation/court services personnel shall use their official position to secure privileges or advantages.
- B. No probation/court services personnel shall accept any gift or favor of a nature which implies an obligation that is inconsistent with the free and objective exercise of professional responsibilities.
- C. No probation/court services personnel shall solicit or accept any gift, favor, or compensation for anything to do with or related to the performance of official duties, or for anything that might compromise the integrity of the court as provided by 730 ILCS 110/14.
- D. All probation/court services personnel shall use the resources, property, personnel facilities, equipment, time, or funds under the employee's official control judiciously and solely in accordance with prescribed statutory and regulatory procedures.
- E. No probation/court services personnel shall discriminate by dispensing special favors to anyone, whether or not for remuneration, nor shall any employee so act that the employee is unduly affected or appears to be affected by kinship, rank, position, or influence of any party or person.

Section 4. Conflicts of Interest

- A. All probation/court services personnel shall avoid conflicts of interest in the performance of professional duties.
- B. No probation/court services personnel shall permit personal interest to impair the objectivity which is to be maintained in their official capacity.

- C. Probation/court services personnel should refrain from engaging in personal activities, including participation in organizations and politics, if such engagement unduly influences or burdens the performance of duties or creates a conflict of interest that could damage the reputation of the employee or the court.
- D. No probation/court services personnel shall develop a relationship with probationers other than that necessary to conduct business.
- E. Probation/court services personnel shall disclose to the employee's supervisor any relationships with individuals currently or previously supervised by the court so that actions may be taken to avoid the appearance of impropriety.
- F. Probation/court services personnel shall not conduct financial or business dealings with probationers, including but not limited to such matters as serving as fiduciary, accepting or making loans, or cosigning promissory notes.
- G. Probation/court services personnel shall not engage in any financial or business dealings which may create an actual conflict of interest with their official duties, or which may create the appearance of a conflict of interest with their official duties.
- H. All appointments, promotions, or dismissals in the probation department must be made on the basis of merit only and cannot be influenced by favoritism or nepotism.
- I. All probation/court services personnel shall exercise diligence to become aware of actual or perceived conflicts of interest, disclose conflicts to the designated authority, and, as appropriate, take steps to resolve conflicts when they arise.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

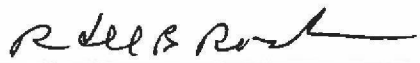
IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE) CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE
)
MICHAEL BAGGETT) ORDER 2023-6

Pursuant to the Illinois Supreme Court Rule 39,

MICHAEL B. BAGGETT

having been selected by majority vote of the Circuit Judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, is hereby appointed to the office of Associate Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, for a term commencing October 27, 2023, ending June 30, 2027.

Date: 10-2-23

ENTER: 
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-7

SUBJECT – SELECTION OF CHIEF JUDGE

Pursuant to Rule 1.2(a) of the Rules of Practice of the Circuit Court, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge Randall B Rosenbaum was re-elected to the position of Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, effective 12:01 am on January 1, 2024 with the term ending at midnight, December 31, 2026.

Pursuant to Rule 1.2(b) of the Rules of Practice of the Circuit Court, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge R.C. Bollinger is hereby appointed Acting Chief Judge to serve in the absence of the Chief Judge or when the Chief Judge is unable to serve.

Date: 11-6-23

ENTER: 
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-8

ESTABLISHING AN HOURLY RATE/MAXIMUM FEE FOR APPOINTED COUNSEL

Administrative Order 2021-11, as amended, is rescinded and replaced with the following:

Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 299, the Court may appoint counsel to represent indigent persons in the following matters: felony, misdemeanor, traffic, juvenile delinquency, juvenile abuse and neglect, Sexually Dangerous Persons Act, Sexually Violent Commitment Act and appeals for the foregoing matters.

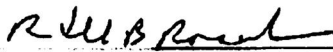
Effective Jan. 1, 2024, the Sixth Judicial Circuit hereby sets the hourly rate for said appointed counsel at \$150 for all reasonable and necessary time spent in and out of court on said cases.

The maximum compensation as set by Rule 299(c) shall be exceeded for extended or complex representation only when the judge making the appointment makes an express, written finding that good cause and exceptional circumstances exist and that the amount of the excess payment is necessary to provide fair compensation. The Chief Judge or the Presiding Judge of the County must approve of the excess payment.

Guardian *ad litem* appointments in family, guardianship and other matters are not covered by Rule 299. Nonetheless, the Sixth Judicial Circuit hereby sets the hourly rate for said appointed counsel at \$150 for all reasonable and necessary time spent in and out of court on said cases.

12/12/23

Date



Randall B Rosenbaum, Chief Judge
Sixth Judicial Circuit

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-9

ISSUES RELATED TO DOUGLAS COUNTY

Sixth Circuit Administrative Order 2023-2 is rescinded and replaced with the following:

Effective March 4, 2024, Douglas County Resident Circuit Judge Kate Watson shall preside in Douglas County full-time and Champaign County Resident Circuit Judge Chad Beckett shall preside in Champaign County full-time.

At the sole discretion of Judges Watson and Beckett, they may retain any matter re-assigned to them under Administrative Order 2023-2. These decisions should be limited to matters which are complex or where the matter is in the middle of hearings.

Except as noted, all matters re-assigned under Administrative Order 2023-2 shall be administratively re-assigned as follows:

Douglas County cases assigned to Judge Beckett will be re-assigned to Judge Watson for resolution in Douglas County. If there is a conflict of interest in a criminal matter, the matter will remain with Judge Beckett or assigned to another judge on a case-by-case basis.

Champaign County family law matters assigned to Judge Watson will be re-assigned, as of March 4, 2024, to Judge Anna Benjamin, who pursuant to Champaign County Administrative Order 2023-8, will be handling family law matters in Champaign County effective that date.

Date: 12/13/23

ENTER: 
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum