

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT – MANDATORY ARBITRATION
GENERAL ORDER 2020-25**

Coronavirus: Scheduling Mandatory Arbitration Hearings During COVID-19 Crises

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Mandatory Arbitration Center would prefer to observe certain requirements for those individuals conducting arbitration hearings to allow improved control over the number of individuals involved and to reduce the risk of spreading the virus to arbitration participants and staff.

NOW THEREFORE:

1. Effective Monday, November 30, 2020 through December 31, 2020 all cases currently set for Mandatory Arbitration hearings in District One will be conducted virtually by Zoom.
2. Anyone having concerns about conducting their Mandatory Arbitration hearing virtually by Zoom should contact the Administrator or Deputy Administrator for support and guidance.
3. The Arbitration Center staff is directed to contact all parties of record by email to provide notice of the Zoom Arbitration hearing date and time. The staff is also directed to make every effort to maintain the current scheduled date and time of each hearing.
4. The Arbitration Administrator or designated staff members are directed to shift the time and date of hearings within the week in order to accommodate Zoom hearing slots of all cases.
5. Litigants are urged to keep the schedule and not file motions for continuances in order to allow the scheduled hearings to proceed smoothly.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

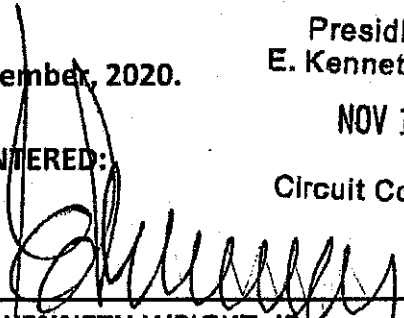
Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 19th day of November, 2020.

Presiding Judge
E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.

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Circuit Court - 1624

ENTERED:



E. KENNETH WRIGHT, JR.
PRESIDING JUDGE
FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
GENERAL ORDER 2020-27

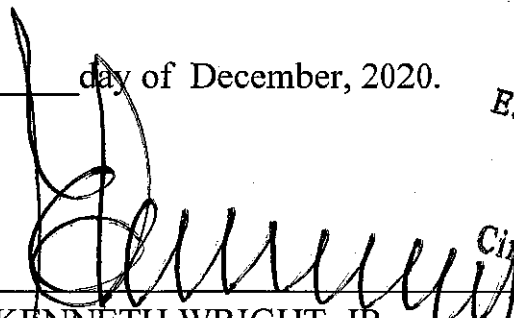
Declaration of Covered Persons in Eviction

WHEREAS, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the health and safety of the public and court personnel, recent eviction proceedings were occurring only in the categories of Commercial and Emergency cases where a tenant posed a direct threat to the health and safety of the tenants, or an immediate and severe risk to property, or a violation of any law or regulation. Currently, a residential eviction may not occur if the tenant completes a form provided by the landlord, Declaration of Covered Persons that demonstrates that the tenant is subject to a COVID-19 exemption from a residential eviction if certain conditions are present.

WHEREAS, though the eviction moratorium has been extended, eviction cases may be filed under the circumstances delineated above. Prior to and as a condition of filing any eviction action against a tenant, any landlord, owner of residential property or other person(s) who has the right to have a tenant evicted must first comply with City, State and Federal requirements.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, all landlords, owners of residential property or other persons who have the right to have a tenant evicted for nonpayment of rent must first provide tenant(s) a Declaration of Covered Persons (sample attached) or equivalent, an affidavit by the landlord stating the manner of service of the Declaration provided to the tenant, signed by the landlord and specifying a reasonable time for the tenant to return the declaration to the landlord indicating status as a Covered Person. The returned Declaration should be signed by the tenant, indicating not subject to eviction.

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this _____ day of December, 2020.



E. KENNETH WRIGHT, JR.
PRESIDING JUDGE
FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Presiding Judge
E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.

DEC 04 2020

Circuit Court-1624