

**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:

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