

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
KANKAKEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

STANDING ORDER FOR JUDGE ANDREW J. PURCELL

Effective Date: February 10, 2025

CLERK

Judge Purcell's clerk is Jana Fahrow. Jana is responsible for courtroom minutes, managing the judge's daily docket, and all scheduling with the judge's permission to specially set or reschedule matters as required by the court's schedule. She can be reached via phone (815-936-5739) or email (jfahrow@k3county.net).

CASE ASSIGNMENTS

Case assignments are made by the Chief Judge and are subject to change. Pursuant to the Assignment Order of April 1, 2024, Judge Purcell is currently assigned the following cases:

- **Guardianship:** Guardianship cases for minors and disabled adults ("P" or "GR" case numbers)
- **HFS Child Support:** Family law cases involving child support for parents and/or guardians receiving benefits through the State of Illinois or other states ("FA" or "F" case numbers – NOTE: child support cases that also involve issues of parenting time will be transferred to a family court judge pursuant to the assignment order)
- **Mental Health:** Mental health cases for Involuntary Admission or Involuntary Treatment ("MH" case numbers)
- **Miscellaneous Remedy:** Miscellaneous non-jury cases where the remedy sought does not include a prayer for monetary damages and is not assigned to another judge ("MR" case numbers)
- **Orders of Protection:** Petitions for Orders of Protection, Stalking/No Contact, or Civil No Contact Orders
- **Probate Cases:** Probate matters ("P" or "PR" case numbers) for administration of decedents' estates

NOTE: Pursuant to the April 1, 2024 Assignment Order: OP cases involving parties to a Dissolution of Marriage case will be given to the judge assigned to the D/DC/DN case. MR cases that cannot be heard by Judge Purcell due to conflict, recusal or substitution of judge will be reassigned to Judge Claudio. PR and GR cases that cannot be heard by Judge Purcell will be reassigned to Judge Nicholson. All other cases involving conflict, recusal or substitution will be referred to the Chief Judge for reassignment.

COURTROOM SCHEDULE

The Kankakee County Courthouse has nine courtrooms (four that accommodate juries) for ten judges. Judge Purcell is the “floater judge”, meaning he is assigned to different courtrooms at different times throughout the week. The following is Judge Purcell’s weekly courtroom schedule, which is subject to change pursuant to order of the Chief Judge or special circumstances:

- **MONDAY:** Morning – Courtroom 206 / Afternoon – Courtroom 110*
- **TUESDAY:** No assigned courtroom. (Judge Purcell often uses Tuesdays to hold any pending MH hearings at local hospitals.)
- **WEDNESDAY:** Morning – Courtroom 104 / Afternoon – no assigned room (Judge Purcell typically hears Wednesday detention hearings in Courtroom 200 or 204, but another courtroom may be used as necessary.)
- **THURSDAY:** Courtroom 103
- **FRIDAY:** Morning – Courtroom 204 / Afternoon – Courtroom 109

* **NOTE:** Judge Purcell is assigned to detention hearings on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and may not be able to accommodate other afternoon matters on those days depending on the volume and length of detention hearings.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED DOCKETS:

Detention Hearings: Monday and Wednesday afternoons

(Hearings for in-custody defendants in criminal matters in which the State’s Attorney’s Office has filed petitions to detain or petitions to impose conditions of pretrial release pursuant to the Pretrial Fairness Act, also referred to as the SAFE-T Act.)

HFS Child Support Docket: Wednesday mornings

(“FA” / “F” cases are heard on Wednesday mornings unless otherwise scheduled with the court. “FA” and “F” cases involving disputed issues of custody and parenting time may be reassigned to a judge assigned to other family court cases.)

Probate and Guardianships Docket: Thursday mornings

(“GR”, “P” and “PR” cases set for status hearings are heard on Thursday mornings. Contested hearings may be scheduled on Thursday afternoons or other days pursuant to the availability of the court and parties.)

NOTE: For those days and times when Judge Purcell does not have an assigned courtroom, emergency petitions may be heard in any available courtroom as assigned by the Chief Judge, the Court Administrator, or the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE COURT / COURTESY COPIES

Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.9 prohibits *ex parte* communications between a judge and individual parties. As such, all communications with Judge Purcell (other than courtesy copy emails as discussed below) should be submitted through his clerk, Jana Fahrow.

When courtesy copies of pleadings, motions and related briefs are requested by Judge Purcell, they should be provided to him via his courtesy copy email address – ajpcourtesy@k3county.net. Proposed Orders in advance of a court appearance and Orders submitted following a court appearance should be submitted using the courtesy copy email address. All courtesy copy emails must be copied to all parties of record and to the judge’s clerk – jfahrow@k3county.net).

Judge Purcell’s courtesy copy email should not be used for any other communication. Other than proposed orders for pending matters or other materials specifically requested by the judge, courtesy copy emails should not include any document that has not already been filed in the case through the Clerk of the Circuit Court’s office.

BRIEFS

All briefs or memoranda of law in support of or opposition to any motion shall be limited to 15 pages, not including exhibits. When proving courtesy copies to the court, please include the brief/memorandum and all supporting exhibits in one, combined PDF file.

CASE SCHEDULING / CONTINUANCES / EMERGENCY HEARINGS:

Case Scheduling:

Some court dates are assigned by the Circuit Clerk’s office at the time of filing. After the initial court date, all future court dates, all motions to be set for presentment, and all contested motion hearings or other hearings will be set by the judge during a court hearing or must otherwise be scheduled with Judge Purcell’s clerk, Jana Fahrow.

Attorneys and their staff **may not** unilaterally choose their own dates for scheduling matters of any kind due to limitations created by Judge Purcell’s courtroom assignment schedule (see page 2) and the fact the judge has specific dates and times set aside for specific cases.

If a party appears before the court on a date that was not set during a prior court date, or not coordinated with Jana, the case may not appear on the court’s docket for that date.

If that occurs, the court will exercise its authority and discretion to determine if that case will be heard or reset for a future date, based on the volume of cases previously scheduled and time considerations for the court, counsel and all parties present on previously scheduled matters.

Motions – Other than emergency motions, which the court will hear at its discretion, all motions must be scheduled for presentment with the judge’s clerk.

Continuances:

Parties seeking to continue a matter to a future date or otherwise change a scheduled court date/time, must file a motion to continue with notice to any opposing party or their attorney and must contact Jana to schedule a date and time to present the motion to continue. Judge Purcell may also consider oral requests for continuances made in court; such requests will be granted at the judge’s discretion based on the circumstances.

Attorneys and their staff may not unilaterally continue matters by submitting orders with a new court date of their choosing.

Emergency hearings:

Emergency hearings (other than emergency petitions for Orders of Protection, Stalking/No Contact, and Civil No Contact orders) will only heard after the court determines whether there is truly an emergent situation that requires immediate hearing. If the court determines the matter does warrant an emergency hearing, the hearing date and time will be set as soon as possible.

A party's delay in filing pleadings, an impending statute of limitation or other deadline of which a party had advance notice, general lack of diligence and other similar circumstances do not constitute emergencies.

COURT APPEARANCES

Parties may attend routine status hearings by Zoom appearance without prior court approval. Judge Purcell logs onto Zoom every morning at 9 a.m. or thereafter, depending on the court's scheduled docket, and every afternoon at 1:30 p.m. or thereafter, depending on the court's scheduled docket.

Individuals attending status hearings via Zoom can do so by logging into Judge Purcell's Zoom video conference using a computer, smart phone or tablet with a camera, or a landline telephone.

Judge Purcell's Zoom Meeting ID is: 230 490 2937. More detailed instructions can be found on the Circuit Clerk's website: www.kankakeecountycircuitclerk.com under "Remote Court Zoom Instructions".

Zoom court proceedings are still court proceedings and proper courtroom behavior is required. Persons appearing by Zoom should conduct themselves as they would be expected to if they were physically present in the courtroom. This means persons appearing by Zoom must be fully clothed in appropriate, non-offensive clothing, must not be wearing hats, must not be eating, drinking or smoking during the court appearance, and must show proper respect to the court proceedings, the judge and clerk, and all parties present (in person or on Zoom). The judge may remove a person from the Zoom meeting if that individual is not showing proper court behavior or is otherwise disruptive.

Participating in a Zoom proceeding while operating a motor vehicle is a violation of Illinois law, specifically the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/12-610.2(b).

The judge may often address cases that involve attorneys or parties that are physically present in the courtroom before addressing matters involving Zoom participants. This is due to the need for attorneys to be in other courtrooms within the courthouse and to allow the judge to efficiently manage his daily docket.

Pursuant to Administrative Order 2023-2 for the Circuit Court of the Twenty-First Circuit, all pre-trial conferences, jury trials, bench trials, evidentiary hearings (including plenary hearings for Orders of Protection), contempt hearings and settlement conferences, are exempted from the option in Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45 to appear remotely without advance approval pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45(b)(1). **Parties are required to appear in person for all such matters referenced above.**

NOTE: Judge Purcell prefers to have all parties physically present in court (individually or through their attorneys) whenever possible as this helps ensure all parties can be seen and heard. In-person appearances can also help facilitate any necessary discussions between the parties and efficient management of the court's daily dockets, particularly when attorneys need to be in multiple rooms in the courthouse on the same date.

Pursuant to Administrative Order 2023-2, Judge Purcell may require in-person proceedings if the judge determines the nature of the hearing, the conduct of the parties and/or attorneys, and/or the need for parties and/or attorneys to communicate and/or negotiate effectively require in-person appearances.

Judge Purcell may, in his discretion, allow witness testimony by remote means under special circumstances. A party seeking to present remote witness testimony through Zoom at any contested hearing must file a written motion with the court with proper notice to the opposing party and coordinate with the Judge's clerk, Jana Fahrow, to schedule the motion for hearing at least 7 days prior to the contest hearing date.*

The remote witness environment is an extension of the courtroom and proper and appropriate safeguards are required to ensure the integrity of the testimony presented to the court. Remote witnesses must be able to testify remotely with both audio and video capability so they can be seen and heard by the court and all parties. Remote witnesses are to appear alone without other individuals in the room and without notes or other aids to their testimony (without prior court approval).

* **NOTE:** Hearings on Petitions for Orders or Protection, Stalking No Contact Orders, and Civil No Contact Orders, that have been served on the Respondent and are set for a subsequent (plenary or extension) hearing are **evidentiary hearings that require the parties to be physically present in court.** Zoom appearances will only be allowed under unique circumstances and with the judge's approval. Parties in these matters who wish to request a remote appearance should contact the court's clerk with as much advance notice prior to the scheduled hearing.

PROBATE PROCEDURES FOR DECEDENTS' ESTATES AND GUARDIANSHIPS:

Initial filing procedure:

All probate cases should be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Please **do not** send documents to open a probate matter to Judge Purcell via his courtesy copy email address. Once the clerk's office has confirmed that all necessary documents have been filed and accepted, and any applicable filing fees have been paid, the clerk's office will provide Judge Purcell with any orders and bonds that require court approval and the judge's signature.

Initial status date:

All probate matters involving a decedent's estate will be given a six-month status date once the judge has signed an order for administration of the estate (whether through admission of Will to Probate or administration of intestate estate). Despite the statutory timeframes for will contests and claims, Judge Purcell is using an initial a six-month status date to have cases monitored more

closely given the time standards created by the Illinois Supreme Court. The necessary time frame for any follow up status date will be determined at the initial status hearing.

Closing an estate:

When closing an estate, Judge Purcell will review the file to ensure any necessary inventories, reports, waivers, and/or receipts on distribution have been filed. Once the judge has confirmed, the necessary documents have been filed and all requirements have been met, a proposed closing Order may be submitted by the attorney or individual representing the executor/administrator may be entered and any future dates may be stricken.

Effective: February 10, 2025

By: /s/ Andrew J. Purcell

Hon. Andrew J. Purcell
Associate Judge, 21st Judicial Circuit of Illinois