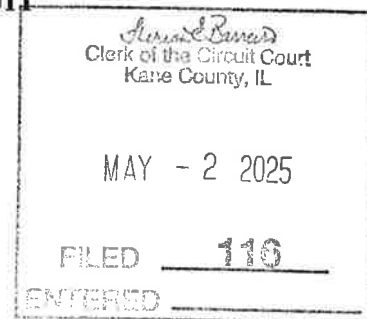


IN THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GENERAL ORDER 25-06
Effective May 2, 2025



**IN THE MATTER OF
APPREHENSION OF
INDIVIDUALS IN THE
COURTHOUSES**

)
)
)
)

WHEREAS, the following policy reflects and codifies the current working practice regarding the apprehension of individuals in the courthouses whether pursuant to a warrant or based upon probable cause, and

WHEREAS, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) recently issued interim guidance, *Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, including at or near courthouses, when it has credible information that a targeted alien is or will be present at a specific location, and

WHEREAS, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operation (ERO) Task Force has officially represented it is focusing on apprehending charged defendants in criminal cases, and not victims, witnesses, or other litigants appearing in family or civil court, and

WHEREAS, individuals entering the courthouses do so through the courthouse's security processes and checkpoints, thereby ensuring they are unarmed, which further minimizes the risk of injury to law enforcement, the public, and the wanted individual, and

WHEREAS, the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit is legally and ethically bound to uphold and adhere to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the laws of the United States, and the laws of the State of Illinois, and

WHEREAS, federal law establishes procedures for the implementation, application, and enforcement of immigration laws, and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has enacted laws, including the Illinois Trust Act and the Voices of Immigrant Communities Empowering Survivors (Voices) Act, which prohibit Illinois entities from assisting or participating in federal civil immigration enforcement, and

WHEREAS, every Illinois judge is sworn to "support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois,"

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers should notify court security and local law enforcement before apprehending individuals at or near the courthouses.
2. Local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers shall conduct necessary apprehensions of charged defendants discreetly to minimize the impact on court proceedings.
3. Such apprehensions shall occur after the defendant's court event has concluded.
4. Apprehension of the charged defendant may occur in the public areas of the courthouses, provided that the apprehension does not interfere with the use of said premises or the safety of others in that area. Apprehension in any other part of the courthouses shall be pursuant to the specific approval of the Chief Judge.
5. No apprehension shall take place within a courtroom unless pursuant to Court Order or exigent circumstances.

Entered this May 2, 2025, and effective May 2, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert K. Villa', written over a horizontal line.

Robert K. Villa
Chief Judge