

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 23RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DEKALB COUNTY and
KENDALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

General Order – 2026- 01

<i>In the Matter of the Amendment of Local Rule 1.65 - Extended Media.</i>	
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WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority conferred by Supreme Court Rule 21(a) and Local Rule 1.0(A), the Circuit Judges may make rules regulating their dockets, calendars, and business;

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2026, the Supreme Court has enacted an amended Policy for Extended Media Coverage applicable to all Illinois Circuit Courts; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by their signatures below, the majority of the Circuit Judges of the 23rd Judicial Circuit have determined it is necessary and appropriate to repeal Local Rule 1.65 and to amend it to conform to the aforesaid Policy for Extended Media Coverage.

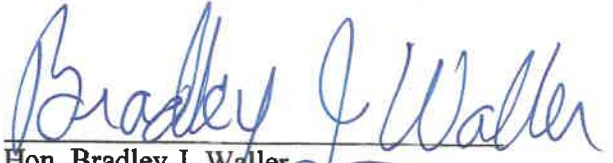
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED

The currently existing Local Rule 1.65 of the 23rd Judicial Circuit is hereby repealed and replaced with the text appended hereto.

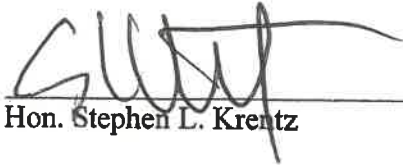
Entered and immediately effective this 2 day of March, 2026.



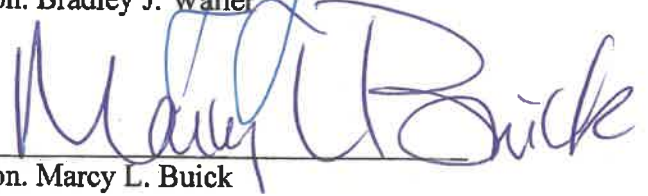
Hon. Robert P. Pilmer



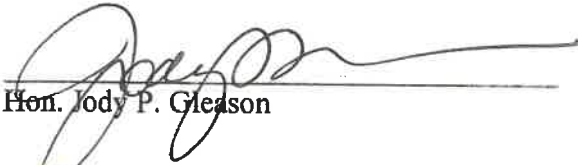
Hon. Bradley J. Waller



Hon. Stephen L. Krentz



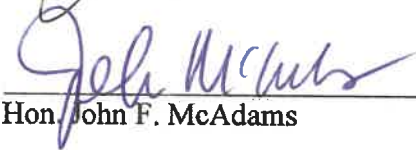
Hon. Marcy L. Buick



Hon. Jody P. Gleason



Hon. Philip G. Montgomery



Hon. John F. McAdams



Hon. Joseph C. Pederson

1.65 EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

A. Media Access

1. Public access to court proceedings is allowed by the United States and State of Illinois Constitutions and integral in ensuring the trust, confidence, and transparency of our judicial system. In keeping with this spirit and under the authority granted by the Illinois Supreme Court in M.R. No. 2634, all circuit courts within the 23rd Judicial Circuit shall allow requests for extended media coverage of public court proceedings in accordance with these rules. The coverage shall always be subject to the discretion of the judge presiding over the proceeding.
2. Extended media coverage shall not disrupt, distract, or interfere with the solemnity, decorum, and dignity of the court. Nothing in these rules shall limit or restrict the power, authority, or responsibility otherwise vested in the judge presiding over the proceeding to: (a) control the conduct of any proceeding; (b) maintain decorum and prevent distractions; (c) guarantee the safety of the courtroom, including any party, witness, or juror; and (d) ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice.

B. Definitions

1. "Extended media coverage" means any news media recording or broadcasting of court proceedings for the purpose of gathering and disseminating to the public.
2. "News media" means a newspaper or other periodical issued at regular intervals whether in print or electronic format, a news service whether in

print or electronic format, a radio station, a television station, a television network, a community antenna television service, or a person or corporation that, in a professional capacity, produces news content aimed at informing the public. In determining whether a requestor fits the definition of news media, these factors should be considered:

- a. A requestor's membership in a news/media trade or industry organization;
 - b. A requestor's personal connection to the proceeding;
 - c. A requestor's editorial process, which should promote accountability and adherence to extended media coverage policies, rules, and content-sharing (pooling) obligations; and
 - d. How the requestor, if granted access, would impact a party's right to a fair trial.
2. "Judge" means the circuit or associate judge presiding over the proceeding.
 3. "Chief judge" means the chief judge of the circuit.
 4. "Court proceeding(s)" include all public trials, hearings, or other proceedings conducted in the circuit court whether in person or by videoconference.
 5. "Court media liaison" means a person who works for the court system and helps facilitate extended media coverage requests.
 6. "Media requestor" means someone who has submitted an extended media coverage request and meets the definition of news media as defined in

Section 2(b) of this policy.

7. "Media coordinator" means a media requestor or other member of the news media designated by the judge or chief judge to help coordinate extended media coverage by news media who have been granted a request for extended media coverage. The media coordinator shall ensure the extended media coverage policy and other local rules and policies are followed by all news media. The media coordinator is responsible for content sharing (pooling) obligations.
8. "Portable electronic devices" are mobile devices capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information, such as personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cellphones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, e-book readers, smartwatches, and similar devices.

C. General

Extended media coverage of court proceedings may be permitted in the courtroom during sessions of the court, under the following conditions:

1. Permission first shall have been granted by the judge, who may prescribe such conditions of coverage as provided for in this policy.
2. Absent good cause shown, extended media coverage is prohibited in the following case types: juvenile, probate, guardianship, dissolution of marriage, family law, parentage, adoption, mental health, evidence

suppression, orders of protection, and trade secrets.

3. Extended media coverage of jury selection and jurors is prohibited.
4. Equipment authorized by these provisions shall not be operated during a court recess or during "off the record" conversations meant to be private, such as sidebars.
5. The quantity and types of equipment permitted in the courtroom are subject to the judge's discretion within the parameters set forth in Section 5 of this policy.
6. The judge may deny, limit, amend, or terminate extended media coverage at any time during the proceedings if this policy, other local policies and rules, or additional conditions imposed by the judge have been violated, or if the judge finds that extended media coverage poses a danger to the safety of the courtroom or court participants, or if the right to a fair trial will be affected.
7. A decision by a judge to deny, limit, amend, or terminate extended media coverage is not appealable.
8. A judge may authorize extended media coverage of ceremonial proceedings at variance with provisions in this policy as the judge sees fit.
9. There shall be no filing fees associated with filing a request for extended media coverage or an objection to extended media coverage.
10. News media shall not conduct audio or video interviews within the courtroom. Interviews may be conducted only within designated news

media areas, within personal offices of the interviewee, or outside the courthouse, in accordance with local rules and policies.

D. Procedural

1. Requestor. Only news media may submit requests for extended media coverage.

Sample Request for EMC attached as Appendix A.

2. Requests. All requests for extended media coverage shall be filed with the circuit clerk as soon as practicable, but not less than 7 days in advance of the time the proceeding sought to be covered is scheduled to begin. Requests may be made on shorter notice as the court may prescribe or when a proceeding is not scheduled at least 7 days in advance (for example, an initial appearance in a criminal proceeding or a temporary restraining order in a civil proceeding).
3. Notice of Request. At the same time as the request is filed, the media requestor shall provide notice of the request to the court media liaison, all counsel of record, and parties appearing without counsel.
4. Objections.
 - a. Party Objections.

Any party that objects to extended media coverage should file a written objection, stating the reasons, within 3 days of receiving notice of the request.

Objections may be made outside the 3-day window as the court prescribes.

The court may also allow oral objections.

Sample Party Objection attached as Appendix B.

b. Witness Objections.

Any counsel or self-represented party, who seeks to introduce the testimony of a witness, shall notify the witness of the request for, or the granting of, extended media coverage. Witnesses may file a written objection or make an oral objection to extended media coverage prior to testifying and as soon as practicable. Objections made by a testifying victim in a sexual abuse case or any other forcible felony prosecution, and by police informants, undercover agents, and relocated witnesses, will not be denied absent good cause shown.

Sample Witness Objection attached as Appendix C.

5. Notice of Objections. At the same time a written objection is filed, the objector shall provide notice of the objection to the requestor, the court media liaison, all counsel of record, and parties appearing without counsel.
6. Discretion of the Judge. All party objections shall be heard and decided by the judge prior to the commencement of the proceedings. The judge may rule based on the filed papers alone or may consider affidavits, evidence by proffer or testimony, and oral argument in deciding whether to allow extended media coverage, in whole or in part. The judge maintains broad discretion in deciding all matters related to extended media coverage.

Sample Order attached as Appendix D.

E. Technical

1. **Equipment specifications.** All equipment used by media personnel in the courtroom during court proceedings must operate quietly and without drawing attention, so as not to disrupt or distract from the proceedings. Media personnel may be required to demonstrate compliance with these requirements. Failure to do so may result in the exclusion of the equipment from the courtroom.

2. **Audio equipment.** Microphones, wiring, and audio recording equipment shall be of adequate technical quality to prevent interference with courtroom amplification systems or electronic recording systems. Microphones for use of counsel and judges shall be equipped with power switches.

3. **Lighting.** No auxiliary lighting of any kind shall be used in the courtroom. Nor shall any light or other display be detectable to participants to indicate when any equipment is in operation.

4. **Pooling.** News media are encouraged to pool equipment and personnel in all proceedings and must do so, when necessary, due to space limitations in the courtroom or limits on equipment, as set forth below. It is the media coordinator's responsibility to set up pooling arrangements that follow the judge's order for the proceeding.

- a. **Photography.** No more than two news media representatives may take photos during a court proceeding.

- b. Audiovisual recording. No more than two news media representatives may perform video recording during a court proceeding.
- c. Digital media. Any number of media representatives may be designated to perform online journalism (live-tweeting, blogging, posting case developments) during a court proceeding.
- d. Sound recording. No more than one audio system, with designated personnel to operate it, shall be permitted.
- e. Livestreaming. No more than one livestream of court proceedings, with designated personnel to operate it, shall be permitted.
- f. Use of electronic devices for other activities. In accordance with the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Electronic Devices, any number of media

representatives may be designated to use portable electronic devices during a court proceeding for notetaking or other activities.

5. Location of equipment and personnel. Equipment and operating personnel shall be in, and coverage of the proceedings shall take place from, an area(s) within the courtroom designated by the judge, court media liaison, or other authorized court personnel. The area(s) designated shall provide reasonable access to the proceedings to be covered. Whenever practicable, sound recording equipment and its operating personnel should be located outside the courtroom. Equipment shall not be stored in the courthouse without permission.
6. Equipment setup and operation. The judge, court media liaison, or other authorized court personnel may issue specific instructions and timeframes regarding equipment setup and installation. Equipment shall be operated from a fixed position. News media shall not move about the courtroom while proceedings are in session, nor shall they engage in any movement attracting undue attention.

F. Jury Instructions

During the trial of any criminal or civil trial with an approved request for extended media coverage the judge shall instruct the jury with admonishments set forth in the Supreme Court's Policy on Extended Media, as amended from time to time.

EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE REQUEST FORM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

_____ COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

PETITIONER / PLAINTIFF

v.

DEFENDANT / RESPONDENT

CASE NUMBER

Now comes, _____, who is a representative of the _____ news media affiliate states as follows:

1. Request to use: Video Camera Photographic Equipment Sound Recording Equipment
(Mark all that apply) Other: _____

2. The proceeding to be covered is scheduled for _____ 20__ at _____ a.m./p.m. at the following courthouse location _____ in courtroom _____.

3. This request is for this proceeding and all subsequent proceedings.

4. Proper notice has been given to the court media liaison, all counsel of record, and parties appearing without counsel.

5. I request the court grant this request for extended media coverage.

The above information is true and accurate, and I understand that I am not a party in this case and the request for media coverage cannot be appealed.

Requestor's Name (please print): _____

Media Outlet: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Signature of Requester

OBJECTION OF PARTY TO REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE

STATE OF ILLINOIS

_____ COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

PETITIONER / PLAINTIFF

v.

DEFENDANT / RESPONDENT

CASE NUMBER

Now comes, _____, who is a party or an attorney of record in the above cause states as follows:

1. Extended media coverage has been requested for the above matter.
2. There is good cause to believe that the presence of extended media coverage, under the circumstances of the proceeding, would materially interfere with the right of the parties to a fair trial.

The specific facts and circumstances in support of the allegation are described as follows:

3. This objection is filed within three (3) days of receiving notice of the request for extended media coverage.

4. Proper notice has been given to the requestor, the court media liaison, all counsel of record, and parties appearing without counsel.

WHEREFORE, I object to the request for extended media coverage of the trial and/or proceeding for the reasons set forth above.

Objector's Name (please print): _____

Atty No.: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Signature of Objector

OBJECTION OF WITNESS TO REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE OF TESTIMONY

STATE OF ILLINOIS

_____ COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

_____ PETITIONER / PLAINTIFF

v.

_____ DEFENDANT / RESPONDENT

_____ CASE NUMBER

_____ states as follows:
Name of Objecting Witness

1. I expect to be called as a witness in this proceeding by the:

plaintiff/petitioner

defendant/respondent.

2. Extended media coverage of the above matter has been:

requested

granted.

3. I object to extended media coverage of my testimony for the following reasons (please be specific):

4. This objection is filed with the Clerk of the Court prior to the commencement of my testimony.

5. Proper notice of this objection has been given to the requestor, the court media liaison, all counsel of record, and parties appearing without counsel.

WHEREFORE, I object to extended media coverage of my testimony for the above stated reasons.

Objector's Name (please print): _____

Atty No.: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Signature of Objector

EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE ORDER

STATE OF ILLINOIS

_____ COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

PETITIONER / PLAINTIFF

v.

DEFENDANT / RESPONDENT

CASE NUMBER

The Court, having considered the extended media request and any argument by the parties, their counsel (if any) and witnesses, and balancing the request for extended media coverage with the [rights of the parties to a fair trial] [concerns raised by the objecting witnesses], **hereby ORDERS:**

1. The request for extended media coverage filed on _____ by _____ a news media affiliate, is hereby:

- Denied. _____
- Granted. _____
- Granted with the following restrictions or provisions: _____

_____.

2. This order is:

- Limited to the requested hearing date of: _____
- Allowed for this and all further proceedings.
- Allowed for the following proceedings: _____

_____.

Dated: _____

Judge