

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 2025 – 10

SUBJECT: COMMON LAW PRIVILEGE AGAINST CIVIL ARRESTS FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING COURT

The fair administration of justice requires that courts remain open and accessible, and that litigants and witnesses may appear without fear of civil arrest. The common law has long recognized this privilege to ensure individuals can fulfill legal duties without risking further legal jeopardy. Courts in Illinois and nationwide have consistently reaffirmed its necessity.

The Circuit Court of Cook County reaffirms the common law privilege against civil arrest while attending court, vested in both the Court and the parties, as essential to its authority and function, and issues this order to confirm its continued application.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, effective as of October 15, 2025:

1. Any individual who is attending a court proceeding in which the individual is a party, witness, or potential witness, shall not be subject to civil arrest while going to, remaining at, or returning from the court proceeding while within the courthouse or its environs, except pursuant to a judicial warrant or judicial order that authorizes the civil arrest.
2. Courthouse means any building in which the Circuit Court of Cook County conducts court.
3. Environs mean the vicinity around a courthouse, including all public entryways, driveways, sidewalks, and parking areas intended to serve a courthouse.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2025.