

PART 1. JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

1.1 RULES OF COURT

(a) Power of court to adopt rules. These rules are promulgated pursuant to Section 1-104(b) of the Code of Civil Procedure providing that the Circuit Courts may make rules regulating their dockets, calendars, and business and Supreme Court Rule 21(a) providing that a majority of the circuit judges in each circuit may adopt rules governing civil and criminal cases consistent with rules and statutes.

(b) Existing rules repealed. These rules shall become effective on June 7, 2017. All prior rules of the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit are hereby repealed.

(c) Amendment of rules. Any amendment of these rules shall be passed by a majority vote of all circuit judges of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, with each voting judge being mailed a copy of the proposed amendment at least ten (10) days prior to the vote thereon.

1.2 CHIEF JUDGE

(a) Election and Tenure of Chief Judge:

In September of 2016 and every September of each even numbered year thereafter, or whenever a vacancy exists in the office, a meeting shall be called by the Chief Judge or Acting Chief or by any 2 circuit judges for the purpose of electing a Chief Judge.

The Chief Judge shall serve from the first Monday in December of every even numbered year until the first Monday of December of the next even numbered year. Commencing with the December 2016 term, (1) no circuit judge may serve more than two consecutive two-year terms as Chief Judge, and (2) any circuit judge who was elected to fill a vacancy in the office of Chief Judge, the term of which will not expire for 12 months or more, shall not serve more than one succeeding two-year term. A circuit judge rendered ineligible to serve as Chief Judge under either of these provisions shall again be eligible for election to the term commencing 2 years after expiration of the term to which that judge was last elected.

(b) Election Process:

This subsection on election process shall govern and be read to the circuit judges at the beginning of the election meeting.

1. Whenever a Chief Judge is to be elected, a ballot containing the names of all the circuit judges eligible to serve shall be given to each circuit judge, who shall indicate thereon the judge for whom he or she votes as Chief Judge.
2. Only circuit judges are allowed to be present during any portion of the meeting directly or indirectly related to the election.
3. Voting is by secret ballot.
4. There shall be no nominations for office.
5. Prior to balloting, candidates interested in being considered for Chief Judge shall be given the opportunity, but are not required, to address the other circuit judges.

6. A circuit judge who is otherwise unavailable to attend the election meeting due to illness, family emergency, travel, or other exigent circumstance may appear by phone. The circuit judge appearing by phone may announce and designate a fellow circuit judge to secretly vote the absent judge's preference during each round of balloting.
7. An election committee consisting of three circuit judges appointed by the Chief Judge or Acting Chief Judge (or if neither is then in office or present, by a chairman elected by those judges present) shall canvas the votes and shall announce the results after each round of voting.
8. Once a judge receives the votes of a majority of the circuit judges voting, that judge shall be declared elected as Chief Judge.

(c) Removal of Chief Judge:

A majority of the circuit judges may at any time, by written order, call a meeting for the circuit judges at a time and place stated for the purpose of considering the removal of the Chief Judge then in office. A copy of such order shall be delivered or mailed postage prepaid to each judge not joining in it at least five days before the time fixed for the meeting. At such time, the judges shall vote by ballot on the question: "Shall the present Chief Judge be removed from the office?" If a majority of the circuit judges voting vote in the affirmative, the Chief Judge is thereby removed from office, and the judges shall thereupon proceed to select one of the circuit judges to serve as new Chief Judge, to take office at once.

(d) Resignation of Chief Judge:

The Chief Judge may resign by calling a meeting of the circuit judges and presenting a written resignation. The circuit judges shall thereupon proceed to select one of the circuit judges to serve as new Chief Judge, to take office at once.

(e) Acting Chief Judge:

The Chief Judge shall designate one of the circuit judges to serve as Acting Chief Judge in his absence, who shall have the same powers and duties as the Chief Judge. If there is no such designation, or the Acting Chief Judge is also not available, then the circuit judge having the greatest seniority of judicial service and otherwise qualified shall serve as Acting Chief Judge. A Chief Judge is disqualified from serving as Acting Chief Judge for 24 months after leaving the position of Chief Judge.

(f) Vacancy:

Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Chief Judge, any two circuit judges may call a meeting of the circuit judges to select a circuit judge to fill the vacancy.

1.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISIONAL COURTS IN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

There are established in Rock Island County the following divisions:

- (1) Civil
- (2) Criminal
- (3) Juvenile
- (4) Associate

Case designation shall be assigned to these divisions by administrative order of the Chief Judge.

1.4 PRESIDING JUDGE

(a) Designation. The Chief Judge shall designate a judge in Whiteside, Henry, and Mercer Counties as the Presiding Judge in that county. The Chief Judge shall designate a judge in the civil, criminal, juvenile and associate divisions, of Rock Island County, as presiding judge in each division.

(b) Responsibilities. The Presiding Judge shall have the responsibility of administering the judicial department of his division/county. He shall make a general assignment of cases to the judges regularly sitting in his division/county. If so authorized by the Chief Judge, he may promulgate administrative orders within his division/county not inconsistent with these rules or the administrative orders of the Chief Judge.

1.5 JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS

(a) Assignments by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge shall assign circuit judges and associate judges to the various divisions/counties within the circuit and may further assign all judges on a case-by-case basis.

(b) Assignments by the Presiding Judge. The Presiding Judge within each division/county may assign judicial duties to the circuit and associate judges regularly assigned to that division/county by the Chief Judge.

1.6 JUDICIAL MEETINGS

(a) Circuit Judges:

The circuit judges shall meet at least quarterly each year to discuss and take such action as may be required in connection with the business of the Court.

(b) Associate Judges:

The Chief Judge or his designee shall meet with the associate judges at least quarterly, separately, or with the other judges, in each year to discuss and take such action as may be required in connection with the business of the Court.

(c) Special Meetings:

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chief Judge or by any two circuit judges upon five days' notice to all circuit judges.

1.7 ASSOCIATE JUDGES; APPOINTMENTS, TERMS OF SERVICE

The circuit judges of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit shall appoint associate judges pursuant to Article VI, Section 8 and 10, of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, and Supreme Court Rule 39, as amended. Such associate judges shall reside in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit and shall be appointed on a non-partisan, merit basis. Only a person licensed to practice law in Illinois and in good standing shall be eligible for the office of associate judge. All appointees shall be persons of good moral character and reputation.