



518 Davis, Suite 200, Evanston, IL 60201. www.jjustice.org

May 7, 2020

Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge
Circuit Court of Cook County

Dear Chief Judge Evans:

This letter is to express the concern of the Juvenile Justice Initiative, along with a number of other organizations and individual signatories, that your order of May 1, 2020 be enforced in the Cook County Juvenile Court, to require the juvenile courts to review motions filed by the Office of the Public Defender to review orders of detention, and to terminate orders of electronic monitoring where the youth have been found to be compliant with the terms of the order.

As you know, last month advocates expressed concern that Juvenile Justice Division Presiding Judge Michael Toomin was pre-screening defense motions challenging detention. Judge Toomin was stated to believe he had authority, under one of your orders, to determine which motions constituted “emergency” motions, and limit juvenile court review to his pre-determined list of emergency motions. <https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/2020/judge-blocks-key-legal-protection-for-detained-youth/>

You issued an amended order last Friday, May 1, 2020, stating in part that “Juvenile detention hearings, including all motions to review detention, and other emergency matters will be conducted daily at 1100 S. Hamilton, Chicago.”

Your amended order properly reflected the priority that should be given to review of detention of children, especially during this pandemic. Today, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a statement expressing concern for children in the justice system during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and urging that detention be a last resort for children, as youth involved with the justice system are particularly vulnerable populations who are entitled to special consideration. <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/responding-to-the-needs-of-youth-involved-with-the-justice-system--during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

The crisis posed by COVID-19 requires bold leadership. Especially while fundamental rights such as speedy trial are being temporarily suspended, it is imperative to ensure that they are accompanied by protections and reductions in punishment through early release from detention/prison, through early termination of probation and EM sentences, through elimination of fines and fees, and through transparency in court and sentencing. Vigorous defense of juveniles in detention and on electronic

monitoring is essential – and juvenile courts have an obligation to provide immediate review of defense motions to review detention and electronic monitoring.

Therefore, we the undersigned urge you to swiftly respond to these vital concerns by directing that the Cook County Juvenile Court comply with your order of May 1st to provide immediate review of defense motions to review detention, including review of electronic monitoring orders.

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Cabrini Green Legal Aid

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Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice

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www.chicagoappleseed.org

Chicago Urban League

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<https://chiul.org/>

Community Behavioral Healthcare Assoc. of IL.

3085 Stevenson Drive, # 203, Springfield, IL. 62703
www.cbha.net

Community Renewal Society

111 W Jackson, Chicago, IL 60604
www.communityrenewalsociety.org

Illinois Collaboration on Youth

333 S. Wabash, Suite 2750, Chicago, IL 60604
www.ICOYouth.org

Illinois Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

www.illinoispta.org

James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

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John Howard Association

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League of Women Voters of Illinois

www.lwvil.org

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation

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