

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION**

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2007 - 03

**SUBJECT: STANDING ORDERS FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PROCESS
SERVERS IN MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE CASES**

For many years, service of summons in most mortgage foreclosure cases filed in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County has been accomplished through the appointment of special process servers. Due to insufficient resources in personnel, equipment, and technological capabilities, the Sheriff of Cook County has been unable to effectuate service of process promptly and accurately in mortgage foreclosure cases.

As a result, in each mortgage foreclosure case filed in the Chancery Division, where summons is not placed with the Sheriff, a separate Motion for the Appointment of a Special Process Server has been filed and a separate Order Appointing Special Process Server has been signed by the judge to whose calendar the case is assigned. These documents must be stamped, coded, and entered into the Clerk's electronic docket (data entry). The Orders must also be microfilmed.

In the year 2006, mortgage foreclosure filings in the Circuit Court of Cook County increased from 16,494 (2005 filings) to 22,248. Based upon filings for the first five (5) months of the year 2007, it is estimated that mortgage foreclosure filings for the year 2007 will be in excess of 30,000 cases.

Because of the increase in mortgage foreclosure filings and insufficient resources allocated to the Chancery Division's Clerk's Office, the Clerk of the Court has been unable to process promptly Motions for the Appointment of Special Process Servers and Orders Appointing Special Process Servers. Currently there exist delays in processing on every calendar in the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section. In at least 25% of cases on every calendar, processing delays for Special Process Server Motions and Orders are in excess of five (5) days. In a significant number of cases it has taken the Clerk's Office between ten (10) and nineteen (19) days to process such papers. Because of the expiration of summonses, these processing delays have created significant problems for plaintiffs' attorneys and their clients. Attempts over the past year to remedy the delays in the Clerk's Office have proved unsuccessful.

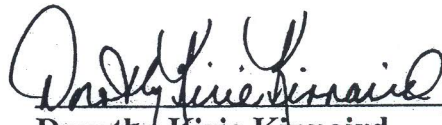
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Effective immediately, each law firm handling mortgage foreclosure cases in the Chancery Division may by Motion seek a Standing Order for the appointment of designated special process servers. Each Order will have a three (3) month or quarterly duration, with the first such Order to expire on August 31, 2007. Such Motions and proposed Standing Orders shall be presented to the Supervising Judge and should be dropped off as an off-call with the courtroom clerk in the Office of the Supervising Judge.

2. Each Motion and Order for a standing special process server order should bear the heading: "In the Matter of the Application of the Law Firm of [INSERT NAME] for a Standing Order for the Appointment of a Special Process Server for the Quarter Ending [INSERT DATE]." A law firm may designate one or more individuals or companies to serve as special process servers for each quarter of a year on all cases filed by that firm.

3. The Clerk of the Court shall number each such Motion and Standing Order and shall keep the originals on file available to the public in the Office of the Clerk of the Court, Chancery Division, Room 802 of the Richard J. Daley Center. A copy of each such Motion and Standing Order shall be kept on file in the Office of the Supervising Judge of the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section.

ENTER:


Dorothy Kirie Kinnaid
Presiding Judge
Chancery Division

Date: June 22, 2007

ENTERED

JUN 22 2007

JUDGE
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