
**AMENDMENT TO COVID-19 CIRCUIT COURT
OPERATIONAL PLAN AND JURY TRIAL PLAN
- COLUMBIA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**

ORDER

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2021, the Wisconsin Supreme Court terminated the following orders relating to circuit courts' operational plans: In re the Matter of Jury Trials During the COVID-19 Pandemic- Amended (S. Ct. Order issued March 22, 2020; Amended April 15, 2020); and Interim Rule 20-02; and In re the Matter of the Extension of Orders and the Interim Rule Concerning Continuation of Jury Trials, Suspension of Statutory Deadlines for Non-Criminal Jury Trials, and Remote Hearings During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Amended Order) (S. Ct. Order issued October 1, 2020).

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Supreme Court "no longer requires that personal masking, social distancing, and sanitizing court facilities be part of any plan for circuit court and municipal court proceedings approved by the chief judge of the applicable judicial district. Instead, circuit courts and municipal courts, with the approval of the applicable chief judge, shall make county-wide decisions about what is in the best interest of circuit court and municipal court operations, respectively. This includes deciding whether or not to continue to require masking, social distancing, and sanitizing court facilities on a county by county basis."

WHEREAS on June 23, 2021, pursuant to the order of the Wisconsin Supreme Court dated May 21, 2021, the Judges of Columbia County Circuit Court have determined it is in the best interest of the circuit court operations to amend their plans and have submitted amended operational and jury trial plans;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED the amended Columbia County Circuit Court's operational and jury trial plans are approved effective as of June 28, 2021. The court shall continue to follow its amended plan until further order of the court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the provisions of this order shall be subject to modification or termination of future orders.

Dated this 23 day of June, 2021.



Honorable Thomas Vale
Chief Judge, Fifth Judicial Administrative District

**Second AMENDED COVID-19 Circuit Court Operating Plan for
Columbia County, Fifth Judicial District
June 28, 2021**

Recognizing the need to continue to ensure the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judicial officials, and other individuals participating in court proceedings, effective June 28, 2021 the Columbia County Circuit Court rescinds all prior orders entered related to COVID-19 and replaces them with the following:

Resumption of all Court events

All normal Court activity was permitted to resume on June 1, 2021. Further, each court shall retain the option of scheduling any matters to be held by Zoom as is lawful, necessary and/or appropriate as determined by each.

Summoning Jurors

The Court recognizes the concern of some potential jurors to participate in a jury trial. The Circuit Court will grant reasonable deferments or excusals if a summoned juror provides information that is reasonably related to a juror's concerns.

Mask Policy

Pursuant to current CDC guidance, all fully vaccinated persons may enter the Courthouse without a mask. This will operate on the honor system with the public and each Department Head in the building will be responsible for enforcement as to their employees. Anyone who would like to continue to wear a mask may do so subject to lawful directives from Law Enforcement or the Courts.

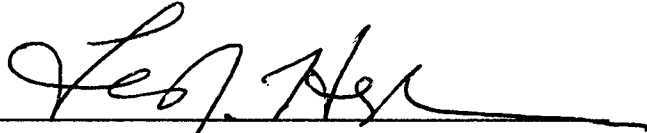
Jury Trials

The Courts have developed a system by which only one (1) jury trial will be scheduled at a time to accommodate more appropriate social distancing in the jury room. This system shall remain in place until further order. Jurors will be assembled in the most spacious room that is available for each trial. All aspects of any jury trial will be conducted in the manner deemed most efficient and safe by the presiding judge. Any food or drink provided during jury service shall be individually packaged.

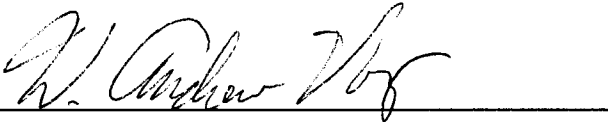
Sanitation

Sanitation products are available in the courtrooms in multiple areas. A thorough cleaning will be done every evening. During the day, cleaning may be done as needed, staff permitting.


Dated this 23rd day of June, 2021



Todd J. Hepler, Circuit Court Branch 1



W. Andrew Voigt, Circuit Court Branch 2



Troy D. Cross, Circuit Court Branch 3