

IN RE THE MATTER OF REMOTE HEARINGS
IN APPELLATE COURTS

FILED

JUN 18, 2021

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court
Madison, WI

You are hereby notified that the Court has issued the following interim order, which terminates and supersedes those portions of the Court's order of May 22, 2020 regarding remote hearings in the appellate courts during the COVID-19 pandemic:

WHEREAS the Supreme Court has administrative and superintending authority over the courts and judicial system of this state and a duty to promote the efficient and effective operation of the state's judicial system, Wis. Const. Art. VII, § 3; In re Kading, 70 Wis. 2d 508, 519-20, 235 N.W.2d 409 (1976); and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court issued a number of orders intended to minimize in-person proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a May 22, 2020 order entitled "In re the Matter of the Extension of Orders Concerning Remote Administration of Oaths at Depositions, Remote Hearings in Appellate Courts, Filing of Documents in Appellate Courts, and Appellate Court Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic," that extended an April 15, 2020 amended order "In re the Matter of Remote Hearings During the COVID-19 Pandemic," which initially suspended most in-person proceedings in appellate courts and authorized the increased use of audio-visual communications technology to conduct court proceedings;

WHEREAS, the number of newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 has decreased significantly as the number of vaccinated individuals has increased in Wisconsin, and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared on May 16, 2021, that "[f]ully

vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing," thereby causing the Court to re-examine the restrictions that the Court has previously placed on court proceedings, including appellate court operations, due to the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the portion of the Court's order of May 22, 2020 entitled "In re the Matter of the Extension of Orders Concerning Remote Administration of Oaths at Depositions, Remote Hearings in Appellate Courts, Filing of Documents in Appellate Courts, and Appellate Court Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic," extending an April 15, 2020 amended order entitled "In Re The Matter of Remote Hearings During the COVID-19 Pandemic," which suspended most in-person proceedings in appellate courts, is terminated as of 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2021.

The State Bar of Wisconsin shall take all reasonable steps to notify its members of the contents of this order. In addition, a copy of this order shall be posted on the court system website, www.wicourts.gov.