

CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURT SYSTEM PLAN FOR PANDEMIC COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is a threat to the health and safety of all members of the Chippewa County community. The threat posed is worldwide in nature and can be addressed only by the community working together.

To ensure the health of the community as well as all participants in the Chippewa County court system, the Circuit Judges of Chippewa County will address the COVID-19 pandemic in the following manner:

1. Declaration of Health Emergency.
 - A. The Judges of Chippewa County will determine when the risks and potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus outweigh the need to continue the normal court calendar. The Judges of Chippewa County will then declare a health emergency.
 - B. Once a health emergency is declared, the procedures described in this plan will be put into effect.
2. Court Procedure During the Health Emergency.
 - A. The Judge assigned to intake on a particular day will handle all matters before the circuit courts of Chippewa County. (the "Intake Court")
 - B. All matters which have a time limit mandated by law shall be scheduled and heard by the Intake Court.
 - C. All hearings and trials not mandated by law to occur within a specific time shall be rescheduled after May 1, 2020.

- D. Examples of matters with time limits mandated by law include:
1. Criminal bond hearings.
 2. Preliminary hearings where time limits have not been waived.
 3. Criminal Jury trials where a speedy trial demand has been made.
 4. Juvenile matters.
 5. Involuntary Mental Commitments.
 6. Restraining orders under Chapter 813 of the WI Statutes.
 7. Search Warrants.
 8. Guardianships and Protective Placements.
 9. Termination of Parental Rights.
- E. The Clerk of Court's, Probate Office, Court Reporters, Judicial Assistants, and the Sheriff's Department will provide coverage for matters before the Intake Court but are encouraged to provide the minimum staff necessary to conduct matters before the Intake Court.
- F. Jury trials during the health emergency will have the following provisions:
1. Jurors who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be excused.
 2. Jurors who are sick shall be given a postponement.
 3. Jurors who has a family member that has tested positive for COVID-19 will be given a postponement.
 4. The Circuit Court system will provide all jury members with appropriate personal protections as are feasible.
 5. The Court system will minimize contact of jury members with the general public and others to the greatest extent possible.

6. The Court system will coordinate with the local Public Health Department to provide medical evaluation for any juror who demonstrates signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If the juror has the symptoms of COVID-19, the juror will be excused from jury duty.
 7. If a juror fails to appear for jury duty, current protocols for handling failures to appear will take place.
- G. The Intake Court may hear additional matters if the Intake Judge determines that not holding a hearing will cause irreparable harm to a party or to the public.
- H. Line of Succession.
1. If the Intake Judge becomes ill, the Judge next assigned intake will serve as the Intake Judge.
 2. District wide assignment. Chippewa County Judges are subject to assignment as determined by the Chief Judge for the 10th Judicial Administrative District.
 3. Reserve Judges and Court Commissioners, as determined by the Chief Judge of the 10th Judicial Administrative District, may serve as Intake Judges.
3. Declaration of the End of the Health Emergency.
- A. When the Judges determine that the normal court calendar practice may begin again without undue risk to the health and safety of the community and court personnel, the Judges shall declare the health emergency at an end.

B. Normal court practices shall commence on the date the health emergency ends.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2020.



STEVEN H. GIBBS
CIRCUIT JUDGE, BR I



JAMES M. ISAACSON
CIRCUIT JUDGE, BR II



STEVEN R. CRAY
CIRCUIT JUDGE, BR III