

RUSK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

ORDER REGARDING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES

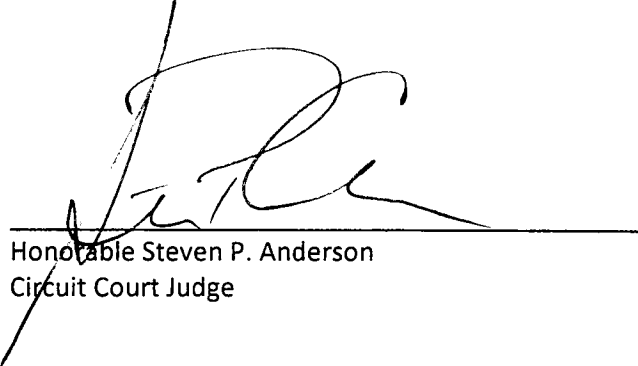
The Rusk County Circuit Court is issuing the attached guidelines to provide procedures and directions for proceedings and essential functions in the Courts during the next several weeks. These Guidelines are Emergency and Temporary Measures only effective from March 16, 2020, through April 30, 2020, or upon further Order of the Court.

The World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of COVID-19 due to widespread human infection worldwide. On March 13, 2020, Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency in Wisconsin. The Court is monitoring the situation and is committed to open access to courts and service to the public, and to protecting the health and safety of litigants, judges, court staff, court security, attorneys, jurors, other participants in court proceedings, and all other persons in court facilities.

These guidelines are intended to insure the continuous performance of the Court's essential functions and operations and at the same time seek to mitigate the risk that our employees, attorneys, litigants, and jurors will be exposed to COVID-19. The guidelines incorporate the use of videoconferencing, teleconferencing, and alternative means of communication to minimize contact, when appropriate, follow social distancing practices; and temporarily suspend some non-essential court functions.

Cases will proceed as currently scheduled unless otherwise provided for in this Order or notified by the Court. Please note that injunction hearings, in-custody criminal intake, preliminary hearings, motion hearings, mental commitments, juvenile detention, CHIPS temporary physical custody, and termination of parental rights cases should be presumed to be proceeding as originally scheduled unless the parties have specifically been informed by the Court.

Dated this 16th day of March 2020.



Honorable Steven P. Anderson
Circuit Court Judge

TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES

1. All Jury trials unless time limits are a factor will be rescheduled to a date after May 1, 2020.
2. Proceedings involving **in-custody** defendants will occur via video conferencing unless an in person appearance is required per Wisconsin State Statute.
3. Upon approval of the Court/Judicial Assistant, telephone appearance is encouraged on the following types of hearings: status, reviews, pretrial conferences, small claims, and oral rulings. These are guidelines only and should there be another type of hearing telephone appearance is requested contact the Circuit Court Judicial Assistant for approval or to reschedule.
4. The Rusk County Sheriff's Department will be issuing a court date on a specific Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. upon arrest in Rusk County on a misdemeanor warrant. The defendant will then appear on that court date for a return on warrant hearing.