

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

SAWYER COUNTY

ORDER REGARDING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES

FILED
MAR 17 2020

Sawyer County
Clark of Circuit Court
Hayward, WI 54843

The Sawyer County Circuit Court is issuing the order described below to provide procedures and directions for proceedings and essential functions in the Sawyer County Circuit Court during the next several weeks. **These orders are Emergency and Temporary Measures ONLY effective from March 17, 2020, until May 1, 2020, or upon further Order of the Court.** The County courthouse currently remains open and any change in the status will be noticed on the County Circuit Court Website sawyercounty.gov.org and the Wisconsin Court System website wicourts.gov.

The World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of COVID-19 due to widespread human infection worldwide. We are monitoring the situation and are committed to open access to our courts and services to the public, and to protect the health and safety of the litigants, judges, court staff and security, attorneys, jurors, other participants in the proceedings, and all other persons in the court facilities.

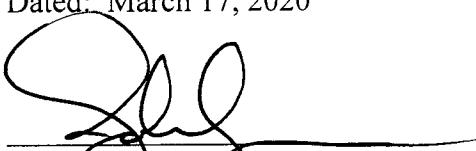
This order is in place to ensure the continuous performance of the court's essential functions and operations and yet seeks to mitigate the risk that our employees, lawyers, litigants and jurors will be exposed. The order incorporates use of videoconferencing and teleconferencing to minimize contact, when appropriate; following social distancing practices; and temporarily suspend some non-essential court functions.

The Sawyer County Circuit Court HEREBY ORDERS:

1. Effective March 19, 2020, all non-essential court activities are suspended until May 1, 2020, pending further order of the court as deemed appropriate and necessary by changing conditions.
2. Except as statutorily required, all jury trials scheduled through May 1, 2020 are cancelled.
3. Essential court activities will continue as scheduled and as required by law including:
 - a. Bail hearings for arrested individuals charged with crimes
 - b. Time sensitive hearings in juvenile cases
 - c. Emergency detention hearings
 - d. Restraining order hearings
 - e. Guardianship and protective placement hearings
 - f. Criminal jury trials subject to speedy trial demands
 - g. Any other time sensitive hearings required by law
4. Non-essential court activates may continue only as approved by the responsible court official. The responsible court official shall give priority to scheduling non-essential court activities that are time sensitive or are deemed urgent by the responsible court official or implicate a possible liberty interest. **No in-person non-essential court activity shall proceed without the approval of the responsible court official.**

6. Except as approved by the responsible court official, all non-essential court activities will be rescheduled for a date after May 1, 2020. Counsel shall communicate with the responsible court official, or his/her judicial assistant, to obtain new hearing dates. Pro Se parties shall receive notice of rescheduled hearing dates by mail.
7. Court facilities shall remain open and the clerk's office will continue to accept filings. Litigants are encouraged to file pleadings and other documents electronically when possible. Members of the bar and public are discouraged from making non-essential visits to court facilities.

Dated: March 17, 2020



John M. Yackel
Sawyer County Circuit Judge