## ORDER REGARDING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES

The Bayfield County Circuit Court is issuing these guidelines to provide information regarding procedures and proceedings in the Bayfield County Circuit Court during the next several weeks. These Guidelines are Emergency and Temporary Measures ONLY effective March 18, 2020, until further Order of the Court. The County courthouse remains open and any change in status will be noticed on the Bayfield County website at <a href="https://www.bayfieldcounty.org">www.bayfieldcounty.org</a> and the Wisconsin Court system website at <a href="https://www.wicourts.gov">www.wicourts.gov</a>.

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

These guidelines are in place to ensure the continuous performance of the court's essential functions and operations and yet seek to mitigate the risk that our employees, lawyers, litigants, and jurors will be exposed. The guidelines incorporate use of videoconferencing and teleconferencing to minimize contact, when appropriate, and follow social distancing practices.

## **GUIDELINES**

 Jury trials that are not subject to statutory time limits scheduled between March 18<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 are postponed and will be rescheduled as needed.

- The Court will accommodate reasonable requests for phone and video conference appearances by parties, witnesses and attorneys during this emergency.
- The Circuit Court, in conjunction with the Clerk of Court's office and other offices, will monitor the Court's docket in an effort to avoid court proceedings that will likely result in 30 or more people being in the courtroom or court facilities at any one time. If it appears the court docket will result in a group of 30 or more people to be present at one time, the Court will take reasonable steps to reschedule matters to a date certain in the future.
- The Court will take reasonable steps to schedule pending matters to a date far enough in the future so as to better ascertain what the then existing public health threat may be.
- Cases will proceed as currently scheduled unless otherwise notified by the Court.
- The Court will expect all who use court facilities to exercise good judgment and follow recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov.
- Any case in which Judge John P. Anderson is not the presiding judge is not affected by these guidelines.

For more information on any specific case, please call the Clerk of Court's office at 715-373-6108. For information related to jury service, call the jury coordinator at 715-373-6118.

Hon. John P. Anderson

Bayfield County Circuit Judge