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**IN THE MATTER OF OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR  
COLUMBIA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT --  
PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF ORDER APPROVING  
OPERATIONAL PLAN REGARDING IN-PERSON  
PROCEEDINGS**

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**ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has entered certain orders related to the operation of the circuit courts regarding in-person proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, and as amended on April 15, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended, until further order of the court, most in-person proceedings, subject to exceptions for certain matters, if remote technology is not practicable or adequate to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, the May 22, 2020, Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered each circuit court shall submit an operational plan to the chief judge of the applicable judicial administrative district. The operational plan shall include the requirements set forth in the order, reduce to the greatest extent possible the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, and promote the health and safety of all those present in the courtrooms, jury rooms, and other court-related confined spaces.

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2020, the Columbia County Circuit Court submitted an amended operational plan to resume in-person proceedings pursuant to the Wisconsin Supreme Court's May 22, 2020 order. The plan verifies the court has communicated with the appropriate stakeholders regarding protective measures for in-person proceedings. The amended plan requires face coverings for all individuals in publicly-accessible areas of the courthouse with limited exceptions that are on the record, appropriate social distancing, sanitation/hygiene practices, and appropriate signage.

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, Chief Judge Thomas Vale approved the Columbia County Circuit Court Operational Plan, as amended on August 17, 2020. The court has not yet submitted an operational plan for the resumption of jury trials.

WHEREAS, On October 1, 2020 the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered if a circuit court determines changes in local conditions require a modification to the circuit court's approved operational plan, the circuit court shall submit information to the chief judge and the chief judge can withdraw approval of the operational plan as required to account for the changed conditions. Upon the chief judge's withdrawal of part or the entire operational plan, the circuit court shall again be subject to the provisions of the Supreme Court orders issued on March 22, 2020 and April 15, 2020, as well as Interim Rule 20-01.

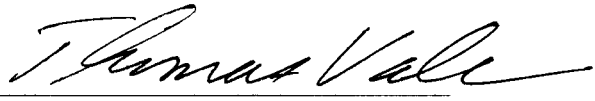
WHEREAS, on October 14, 2020, the Columbia County Circuit Court notified the Chief Judge, after consultation with local justice stakeholders, that it requested a partial withdrawal of the operational plan.

IT IS ORDERED the operational plan for the Columbia County Circuit Court regarding procedures and practices to conduct in-person proceedings is withdrawn in that the court will hold no in person appearances, other than those subject to exceptions in the April 15, 2020 Supreme Court order, or those otherwise approved by the Chief Judge. This partial withdrawal order of the operational plan will expire upon submission of another operational plan and approval by the Chief Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the provisions of this order shall be subject to modification or termination by future orders.

Effective: October 19, 2020.

Dated this 19th day of October, 2020.

  
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Honorable Thomas Vale  
Chief Judge, Fifth Judicial Administrative District