

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

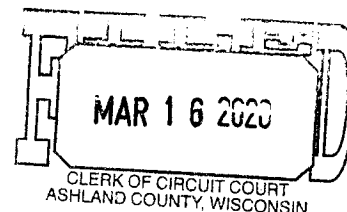
ASHLAND COUNTY

ORDER REGARDING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES

The Ashland County Circuit Court is issuing the orders described below to provide procedures and directions for proceedings and essential functions in the Ashland County Court during the next several weeks. **These Orders are Emergency and Temporary Measures ONLY effective from March 16, 2020, until May 1, 2020, or upon further Order of the Court.** The County courthouse remains open and any change in status will be noticed on the County Circuit Court website co.ashland.wi.us 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 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.

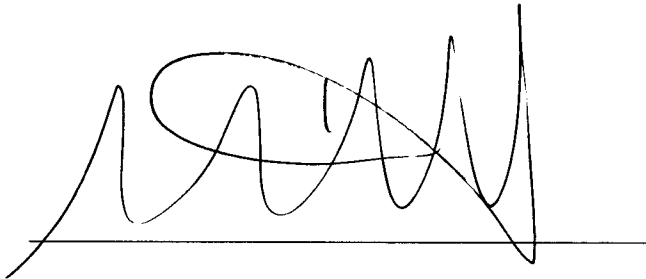
These orders are in place to ensure the continuous performance of the court's essential functions and operations and yet seek to mitigate the risk that our employees, lawyers, litigants, and jurors will be exposed. The orders incorporate use of videoconferencing and teleconferencing to minimize contact,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



The Ashland County Circuit Court **HEREBY ORDERS:**

1. Effective March 16, 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 individual charged with crimes
 - b. Time limit sensitive hearings in juvenile cases
 - c. Emergency detention hearings
 - d. Restraining order hearings
 - e. Guardianship and protective placement hearings
 - f. Wellness and recovery court hearings
 - g. Criminal jury trials subject to speedy trial demands
 - h. Any other time sensitive hearings required by law.
4. Non-essential court activities 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, 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.**
5. For all court activities, parties are directed to utilize alternate methods of operation to the extent possible including using teleconference and videoconference when appropriate and to minimize interpersonal contact as it relates to court activities.

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 or her 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 Court will continue to accept filings. Litigants are encourage to file pleadings and other documents electronically when possible. Members of the bar and the public are discouraged from making non-essential visits to court facilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. McKnight', written over a horizontal line.

Kelly J. McKnight
Ashland County Circuit Judge