Approved and adopted by Chief Judge 2nd Judicial District this 23rd day of March, 2020.

FILED

MAR 2 3 2020

REBECCA MATOSKA-MENTINK CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

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Add Judge

and Judge

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

KENOSHA COUNTY

#### REVISED ORDER REGARDING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES

On March 16, 2020, the Kenosha County Circuit Court issued an Order Regarding Emergency Temporary Measures to provide procedures and directions for proceedings and essential functions in the Court from March 17, 2020 until as indicated in that order or upon further Order of the Court. This Revised Order Regarding Emergency Temporary Measures replaces said March 16, 2020 order. The revised Guidelines below are Emergency and Temporary Measures ONLY effective from March 23, 2020 until as indicated in this Order or upon further Order of the Court.

The World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of COVID-19 due to the widespread human infection worldwide, Governor Evers, Kenosha County and the City of Kenosha have declared a public health emergency. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidance related to the COVID 19 pandemic and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services have issued a series of Emergency Orders that prohibit public or private gatherings of 10 or more people in a single room or confined space.

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 all the litigants, judges, court staff and security, attorneys, jurors, and 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 exposure and further spread of the virus.

The Guidelines incorporate use of teleconferencing to minimize contact, when appropriate; follow social distancing practices; and temporarily suspend some non-essential court functions. For specific information on a particular case, please call the Branch to which the case is assigned. These Guidelines and Orders are adopted by the Judiciary of Kenosha after meeting and consultation, with a full understanding of the Court's duty to the public in all matters.

# TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR PROCEEDINGS FOR JUVENILE COURT CASES

- 1. All Summons return dates will be adjourned until after June 1, 2020.
- 2. TPC in CHIPs and Delinquency cases, and Capias and Warrant returns will continue to be heard.
- 3. Specific requests on cases should be directed to the assigned Juvenile Court Judge.

### PROCEEDINGS FOR CIVIL, PROBATE & SMALL CLAIMS CASES

### Large Claim Civil and Probate

- 1. All matters requiring in-person appearances including, court trials, or other contested or potentially contested hearings where evidence will be taken by other than telephonic or video means or foreclosure motions are suspended until after April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court. Any such matters currently set for a date on or prior to April 30, 2020, will be rescheduled by the Clerk for either a status/scheduling conference or an alternative hearing date, at the discretion of the Judge assigned to such matter.
- 2. Between now and April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court, any non-evidentiary hearing that can be done by phone or video conference will proceed as scheduled, including but not limited to scheduling conferences, status conferences, pretrial conferences, motion hearings, oral decisions, and name change proceedings; duty judge matters, including but not limited to requests for amendments to birth, marriage and death certificates, shall be submitted in writing, either via e-filing or mail. However, any matter may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Judge assigned to such matter if the Judge believes that an in-person appearance should be required.
- 3. No one may appear in person for hearings between now and April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court, unless it is an emergency matter, with the express advance approval of the Judge assigned to such matter; it is expected that this will be limited to such things as Judicial Review of Domestic Abuse or Harassment Restraining Orders or Requests for Stay of Writs of Restitution/Assistance.
- 4. Jury trials are suspended until after May 22, 2020 or until further Order of the Court. Any such matters currently set for a date on or prior to May 22, 2020, will be rescheduled by the Clerk for either a status/scheduling conference or an alternative hearing date, at the discretion of the Judge assigned to such matter.

#### **Small Claims**

- 1. All small claims appearances are suspended until after April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court. Any such matters currently set for a date on or prior to April 30, 2020, will be rescheduled by the Clerk and provided notice.
- 2. No one may appear in person for hearings between now and April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court, unless it is an emergency matter, with the express

advance approval of the Judge or Court Commissioner assigned to such matter; it is expected that this will be limited to such things as Requests for Stay of Writs of Restitution.

### **Weddings**

All Courthouse weddings are canceled until after May 15, 2020, or until further Order of the Court. Any wedding party unable to make alternative wedding arrangements should contact the Kenosha County Clerk's Office at 262-653-2810 for accommodations.

## TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR WATTS AND FAMILY TREATMENT COURT HEARINGS

- 1. Watts Hearings are suspended until after May 15, 2020, or until further Order of the Court. Any such matters currently set for a date on or prior to May 15, 2020, will be rescheduled by the Clerk.
- 2. Family Treatment Court hearings are suspended until after May 15, 2020 or until further Order of the Court.

# TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR PROCEEDINGS FOR FAMILY CASES

- 1. All contested matters requiring in-person appearances including court trials, contested custody and placement hearings, any hearing where evidence will be taken by other than telephonic or video means and all mediation matters are suspended until after April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court. Clerks in individual branches will schedule these proceedings as the Court's calendar permits. Contact the individual branch for direction if the parties wish to have evidentiary hearings by phone or video. It will be left to the discretion of the Judge or Court Commissioner to do so.
- 2. Any hearing that can be done by phone or video will proceed as scheduled, including but not limited to, scheduling conferences, status conferences, motion hearings. All others will be rescheduled by the Court.

- 3. All Paternity, Child Support Establishment, Enforcement and Contempt Hearings are suspended until after April 30 2020. The Court will provide notice to the parties.
- 4. All petitions for Domestic Violence Injunctions, Child Abuse Injunctions, Harassment Injunctions and Temporary Restraining Orders shall be heard as scheduled in person or by telephone or video at the discretion of the Court.
- 5. All stipulated divorces shall be adjourned until after April 30, 2020, or until further Order of this Court.
- 6. All Parent Education Classes are cancelled until May 15, 2020 until further Order of the Court. Parties will be notified of the new date by the Court.

# TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR PROCEEDINGS FOR CRIMINAL CASES

- 1. All matters requiring in-person appearances including, court trials, or other contested or potentially contested hearings where evidence will be taken by other than telephonic or video conferencing means are suspended until after April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court. Any such matters currently set for a date on or prior to April 30, 2020, will be rescheduled by the Clerk for either a status/scheduling conference or an alternative hearing date, at the discretion of the Judge assigned to such matter.
- 2. Between now and April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court, any non-evidentiary hearing that can be done by telephone or video conference will proceed as scheduled, including but not limited to scheduling conferences, status conferences, pretrial conferences, motion hearings and oral decisions. However, any matter may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Judge assigned to such matter if the Judge believes that an in-person appearance should be required.
- 3. All proceedings involving out-of-custody pro se defendants are canceled until after April 30, 2020, or until further Order of the Court. Proceedings may be heard by telephone or video conference if practical.
- 4. All non-jury trial proceedings involving in-custody defendants, who are not being held on any basis other than the case-at-bar, will presumptively proceed as timely scheduled. However, each judge has the discretion to deviate from this guideline as deemed appropriate.

- 5. Individuals who post bail or are released from the jail and ordered into Out-of-Custody Intake shall be ordered-in after June 1, 2020.
- 6. All preliminary hearings for out-of-custody defendants shall be adjourned until after April 30, 2020. All preliminary hearings for in-custody defendants shall proceed as scheduled.
- 7. All bail forfeiture hearings are canceled until further notice of the Court.
- 8. For all re-scheduled hearings, the Clerk will provide notice of the new hearing date to the parties.
- 9. Jury trials are suspended until after May 22, 2020 or until further Order of the Court. Any such matters currently set for a date on or prior to May 22, 2020, will be rescheduled by the Clerk for either a status/scheduling conference or an alternative hearing date, at the discretion of the Judge assigned to such matter.

#### TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR FORFEITURES

1. All forfeiture matters, including traffic matters, are rescheduled until after June 1, 2020.