



Red Cliff Tribal Court

88455 Pike Road

Bayfield, WI 54814

Phone: 715-779-3725 Fax: 715-779-3724

The Red Cliff Tribal Court is issuing the following guidelines in the interest of public health and safety to provide procedures and directions for proceedings and essential court functions during the next several weeks. **These guidelines are emergency and temporary measures and are effective until further notice of the court.**

The courthouse is closed to public use and any change in status will be noticed on the Tribe's website at <http://redcliff-nsn.gov/> and through the Tribal Facebook Page. The court will continue to follow CDC recommendations including social distancing practices, hand washing, and wiping down frequently touched surfaces. Court users are encouraged to contact the Red Cliff Tribal Court by telephone to address their questions and/or concerns at (715) 779-3725 as opposed to coming to the courthouse in person.

Traffic Court/Trial Court

1. All traffic, civil and natural resources hearings shall continue to be heard at the Red Cliff Tribal Court with mandatory telephone or videoconference appearances.
2. Citations issued by the RC Police Department and RC Natural Resources provide individuals directions for making contact with the court prior to their scheduled appearance. Parties are required to make contact to arrange plea agreements.
3. The court will be mindful of the Public Health Emergency in entering default judgments.

Family Court

1. The following hearings shall be rescheduled for a later date by the Red Cliff Tribal Court:
 - a. Court trials for contested family court hearings.
 - b. Motion hearings related to legal custody, physical placement, third-party legal custody, and visitation rights.
 - c. Guardianship hearings not initiated by Indian Child Welfare
2. The following hearings shall continue to be heard at the Red Cliff Tribal Court with mandatory telephone or videoconference appearances:
 - a. Pre-trial and uncontested divorce hearings.
 - b. Child support and paternity hearings.
 - c. Review hearings.
 - d. Emergency Custody Hearings for ICW cases.
 - e. Plea hearings for Children's Code cases (e.g. minor in need of care (ICW), guardianship, adoption, and suspension of parental rights).
 - f. Dispositional hearings for ICW cases (e.g. minor in need of care (ICW), guardianship, adoption, and suspension of parental rights).
 - g. Review hearings for ICW cases.

"The Hub of the Chippewa Nation"

- h. Motion hearings for Children’s Code cases (e.g. minor in need of care (ICW), guardianship, adoption, and suspension of parental rights).
3. The following will also not occur at the Red Cliff Tribal Court during the pendency of emergency temporary measures:
 - a. Weddings.
4. For telephone appearances, parties will be noticed as follows:
 - a. For Children’s Code cases, the case worker from the Red Cliff Indian Child Welfare Department will arrange for the telephone appearance of the parties. If the matter is a guardianship that was not initiated by the Indian Child Welfare Department, a Clerk of Court will reach out to parties to arrange for telephone appearance.
 - b. For child support cases initiated by the Red Cliff Child Support Agency, the case worker will arrange for the telephone appearance of the parties.
5. The court will find good cause for all Children’s Court matters that are set over due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. The court will be mindful of the Public Health Emergency in entering default judgments.

Court of Appeals

1. Parties may continue to file appeals and current briefing schedules shall continue as previously established.
2. Time limit extensions shall only be granted by the court based on a written request or motion of a party or by notice and order of the court.
3. Appearances of non-court personnel will be mandatory telephone or videoconference.

Telephone Etiquette

1. Be polite to the judge, opposing counsel, and court staff.
2. Do not interrupt others while they are talking. You will be called by name when it is your turn to speak. This is going to be very important during telephone appearances.
3. Refer to the judge as “Your Honor.”
4. Direct all concerns and remarks to the bench and not opposing counsel.
5. Minimize background noise in your environment when appearing by phone for court.

If you are sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms such as a cough, fever or other respiratory problem, please do not come to the courthouse. **If you have a court hearing, please call us at (715) 779-3725 to arrange for a telephone or videoconference appearance.** If you need documents to arrange filings, please contact the Court to arrange an exchange. The Court will liberally grant continuances for court hearings and appearances.

For more information on any specific case, please contact the Court at (715) 779-3725 and ask to speak with a Clerk of Court.