



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

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Hon. Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts

January 25, 2022

Wisconsin Supreme Court
110 E. Main Street, Suite 440
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Minor Amendment to Petition 21-03

Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I am writing today to request a minor amendment to Petition 21-03.

Petition 21-03 as drafted and filed, asks for a change to Wis. Stat. § 757.14, to make clear that court is always open to the public when proceedings are held utilizing videoconferencing technology or telephone, unless an exception applies.

Even though Wis. Stat. § 757.14 references the sitting of “every court,” it may also be helpful to mirror this language in Wis. Stat. § 757.70 (1), which deals specifically with proceedings before court commissioners.

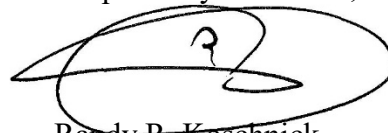
If the court accepts this amendment, Petition 21-03 would include an additional section:

SECTION 6. Section 757.70 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

757.70 (1) All proceedings and hearings before a court commissioner, including proceedings held by telephone or videoconferencing technology, shall be public and open to every citizen, except juvenile proceedings or when it is necessary for the court in which the action or proceeding is pending to impose by order restrictions under its inherent power to conduct proceedings in camera.

This minor change would provide consistency throughout Chapter 757 and offer clarification to ensure the responsible use of videoconferencing technology and protect the public's interest in open court proceedings. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a smaller 'K' and 'S', all enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts