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**REVISED ORDER REGARDING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES**

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The Walworth County Circuit Court issues the attached procedures and directions for the Courts during the next several weeks. **These Guidelines are emergency and Temporary Measures ONLY effective from November 16, 2020, until further Order of the Court.** The Walworth County Judicial Center remains open.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court, in light of the COVID-19 Statewide and National states of emergency, has entered certain orders related to the operations of the Circuit Court regarding in person appearances and jury trials. 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.

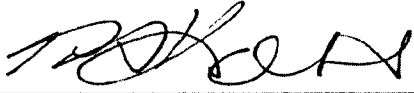
These guidelines are in place to ensure the continuous performance of the court's essential functions and operations and yet seek to mitigate the exposure and further spread of the virus. The guidelines incorporate use of teleconferencing and videoconferencing to minimize contact, when appropriate; follow social distancing practices; and temporarily suspend some non-essential court functions. **Any hearing that can be done by phone will proceed as scheduled, including but not limited to, scheduling conferences, status conferences, motion hearings. Hearings may be heard by Zoom at the Court's discretion. All others will be rescheduled by the Court.** 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 Walworth County after meeting and consultation, with a full understanding of the Court's duty to the public in all matters. All prior orders entered regarding Emergency Temporary Measures are hereby revoked.

Cases with statutory timelines will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

In-person appearances may be required on a case-by-case basis at the Court's discretion.

Dated at Walworth, Wisconsin, this 12 day of November, 2020.

BY THE COURT:



Honorable Phillip A. Koss, Branch I



Honorable Daniel S. Johnson, Branch II



Honorable Kristine E. Drettwan, Branch III

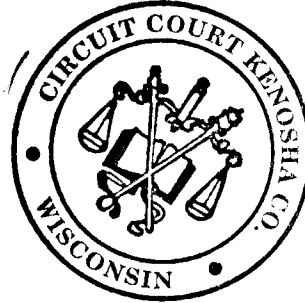


Honorable David M. Reddy, Branch IV

APPROVED BY:



Honorable Jason A. Rossell, Chief Judge, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



**TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES  
FOR PROCEEDINGS FOR JUVENILE COURT CASES**

1. TPC Hearings in CHIPs and Delinquency cases, and Capias and Warrant returns will continue to be heard by phone or Zoom.
2. Matters may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Judge assigned if the Judge believes that an in-person appearance should be required.
3. All Initial Appearances, Status Hearings, and Change of Plea Hearings before the Court Commissioner will continue to be heard by phone or Zoom.
4. Specific requests on cases should be directed to the assigned Juvenile Court Judge.

**TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES  
FOR PROCEEDINGS FOR CIVIL, PROBATE & SMALL CLAIMS CASES**

**Large Claim Civil and Probate**

1. All matters requiring in-person appearances including jury trials, court trials, or other contested or potentially contested hearings where evidence would normally be taken in person, or foreclosure motions are suspended until further Order of the Court. Any such matters currently scheduled 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. Until further Order of the Court, any non-evidentiary hearing that can be done by phone or Zoom will proceed as scheduled, including but not limited to scheduling conferences, status conferences, pretrial conferences, motion hearings, oral decisions, and name change proceedings. 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 attorney or party may appear in person for hearings between now and 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.

**Small Claims**

1. All small claims appearances, excluding eviction matters, are suspended until further Order of the Court or until such time the Court determines these hearings may be conducted by phone or Zoom. Any such matters currently scheduled will be rescheduled by the Clerk and provided notice.
2. No attorney or party may appear in person for hearings between now and 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 further Order of the Court. Any wedding party unable to make alternative wedding arrangements should contact the Walworth County Clerk's Office at 262-741-4241 for accommodations.

**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 means or via Zoom are suspended 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 Zoom. It will be left to the discretion of the Judge or Court Commissioner to do so.
2. All petitions for Domestic Violence Injunctions, Child Abuse Injunctions, and Harassment Injunctions shall be heard as scheduled in person, by telephone, or by Zoom at the discretion of the Court.
3. All Parent Education Classes will be held online until further Order of the Court.
4. Family court mediation and custody study appointments may be held via telephone, video, or other electronic means.

**TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR  
PROCEEDINGS FOR CRIMINAL CASES**

1. All matters requiring in-person appearances including jury trials, court trials, or other contested hearings where evidence will be taken by other than telephonic, Zoom, or other video conferencing means are suspended until further Order of the Court. Exceptions may be made for certain cases at the discretion of the Court. Any such matters currently scheduled 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. Until further Order of the Court, any non-evidentiary hearing that can be done by telephone, Zoom, or other video conference will proceed as scheduled including all calendar calls. 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 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.
4. All preliminary hearings for out-of-custody defendants shall be adjourned until further Order of the Court. All preliminary hearings for in-custody defendants shall proceed as scheduled. Upon request, a waiver of a preliminary hearing can be scheduled at the discretion of the Court.
5. All bail forfeiture hearings are canceled until further Order and notice of the Court.
6. All matters scheduled on the 10:00 a.m. Criminal Call before Commissioner Dougvillo are canceled and will be rescheduled to a date no sooner than January 12, 2021.
7. For all re-scheduled hearings, the clerk will provide notice of the new hearing date to the parties.

## **TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR FORFEITURES**

1. All hearings on forfeiture matters, including traffic matters, that require testimony be taken are rescheduled to a date no sooner than January 4, 2021. All forfeiture matters, including traffic matters, scheduled before the Court Commissioner will continue to be heard without in-person appearances.