

COVID 19 REMOTE HEARINGS- EXECEPTION

**Findings and Order**

WHEREAS: 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.

WHEREAS: The Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered that although the courts of the State of Wisconsin remain open, effective immediately through and including May 22, 2020, all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before May 22, 2020, are continued and will be rescheduled by the presiding judge to a date after May 22, 2020;

WHEREAS: The Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered that circuit courts or parties may file a motion with the Wisconsin Supreme Court seeking an exception to the order suspending jury trials through May 22, which such motion should be identified as an "Emergency" motion on its face and filed as soon as possible;

WHEREAS: The Wisconsin Supreme Court has indicated that certain hearings may be in person if remote technology is not practicable or adequate to address the case.

WHEREAS: The Wisconsin Supreme Court order grants to the Chief Judge, the authority to make exception to the video conferencing order when appropriate to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS: Each Circuit Court Judge has been provided with a ZOOM account which permits real time video conferencing of the participants and the ability for the public to "attend" the hearings;

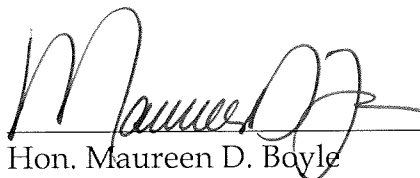
WHEREAS: Each Circuit Court Judge has telephone and video conferencing technology available in addition to Zoom and the majority of hearings can be held using these technologies;

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED:

1. Each Circuit Court judge and Court Commissioner should try to use the ZOOM, other video conferencing technology or telephonic means to conduct all hearings until April 30, 2020. This includes taking testimony via ZOOM, via other video conference technology or telephonically.

2. If Video or Teleconferencing is unavailable despite best efforts, the following hearings which impact constitutional rights may be heard in person.
  - a. CRIMINAL
    - i. Bail/Bond Hearings and initial appearances for in custody defendants
    - ii. Preliminary Hearings for in custody defendants
    - iii. Any hearing for which the person is in custody only based on the case at bar.
    - iv. Pleas and Sentencings of individuals in custody.
  - b. CIVIL
    - i. Emergency writs for Mandamus, Habeas Corpus, Certiorari, or injunctive relief.
    - ii. Restraining orders (Harassment, DV, Child Abuse or Individual at Risk)
  - c. GUARDIANSHIP/ME/ PROBATE
    - i. Temporary and Full Petitions for Guardianship and protective placement
    - ii. ME hearings (initial and final)
  - d. FAMILY
    - i. Emergency orders to enforce placement or custody, or to relocate
  - e. JUVENILE
    - i. Temporary Physical custody requests in Chapters 48 and 938
3. Any other exceptions, should be requested either by emailing or calling me.

Dated this 23rd Day of March 2020



Hon. Maureen D. Boyle  
Chief Judge  
10th Judicial District