
ORDER REGARDING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES

The Jackson County Circuit Court is issuing the following temporary order in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. On March 13, 2020, Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency in Wisconsin. The Court will continue to monitor this situation and will remain committed to protecting the health and safety of anyone participating in legal proceedings with the Jackson County Circuit Court while continuing to maintain an open and public court system. This Order shall be in effect from March 20, 2020 through May 15, 2020, or until further order of the Court:

1. **WATTS REVIEWS:** Annual reviews are required of individuals who are protectively placed and who are subject to court ordered medication orders. Due to COVID-19 nursing homes and other care facilities have closed all access to non residents and hospitals have placed significant restrictions on those allowed to visit hospital patients. As a result, Guardians ad Litem and DHS staff are unable to meet with wards, are unable to review records at the facilities, and wards are not able to be transported to Court. In order to protect the health and safety of those involved, and due to the restrictions, it is impossible to properly conduct a WATTS review until at least after May 15, 2020, unless these statutory duties have already been performed prior to the pandemic. All WATTS Reviews that are scheduled are hereby removed from the calendar and rescheduled to a date after May 15, 2020, unless the parties confirm with the Register in Probate that the matter may proceed as scheduled. All statutory time limits for filings under WATTS

provision shall be stayed until after May 15, 2020, or until further order of the Court due to COVID-19 related issues.

2. EMAILS: E-filing for attorneys shall remain mandated and unchanged by this rule.

There are pro se litigants however who are unable to efile or FAX and who have no other means to file documents other than in paper form. In order to minimize persons to exposure to COVID-19, as a temporary measure the court is discouraging paper filing and discouraging persons from traveling to the courthouse unless absolutely necessary.

The Court hereby authorizes, on a temporary basis effective March 20, 2020 through at least May 15, 2020, or further order of the court, that pro se litigants may file documents by email with the Clerk of Courts Office when appropriate. Approval to file documents by email during this temporary period is at the express direction by the Clerk of Court on a case by case basis. Individuals requesting to file documents by email shall contact the Clerk of Courts office at (715) 284-0208 to obtain permission to do so BEFORE filing.

The Clerk will provide the email address to which the document(s) should be sent.

AFTER the email has been sent the litigant shall call the Clerk of Court within 30 minutes to confirm that it has been received. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in a finding that the email is insufficient to be filed.

The information and advisories are constantly changing and therefore this is a court order subject to change.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna L. Becker', written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Anna L. Becker
Jackson County Circuit Court Judge