

THE BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 2020

An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in Eau Claire County Courts.

COVID-19 and the Eau Claire County Circuit Courts

The Eau Claire County Taskforce completed the operating plan for the safe resumption of in-person hearings and jury trials. This plan was approved by the Chief Judge for the 10th District, Honorable Maureen Boyle on July 20, 2020. The effective date of the plan was August 3, 2020. The plan can be read in its entirety at <https://www.wicourts.gov/news/docs/eaucclairereopen.pdf>

The majority of hearings continue to be held using remote technology via Zoom by phone or video.

Jury Trials

An in-person jury trial was attempted on August 10, 2020. Jurors were checked in by staff, and the jurors also went through a health screening process, including temperature checks. We used two courtrooms to hold the 42 jurors called in to meet social distancing requirements. Both courtrooms were connected via video conference. During the voir dire process, we ended up eliminating jurors to a point that the process did not have enough remaining to continue and the trial ended in a mistrial.

Eviction Moratorium

Effective September 4, 2020, the CDC has issued an Order Regarding the Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19. This Order can be found [here](#).

Fingerprint Room

Effective September 8, 2020 the Fingerprint Room located on the 2nd floor of the courthouse will resume their regular hours of operation which are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Staff Changes

Angela Marinello resigned from the Clerk of Courts office effective Sept. 11

Mary Lee has been promoted to Deputy Court Clerk in Clerk of Court Office

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The Brief. Published monthly. To submit topics or questions: EauClaire.Info@wicourts.gov