

THE BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2022

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 Status Update

There has been no change in protocols for the courts since publication of the January edition of The Brief. We successfully held three multi-day jury trials in January, two of which ran concurrently in different branches.

The jail reports an increase in positive cases of COVID-19 identified through regular testing. The jail is working with the court system to increase video court appearances. All professional visitors entering the jail will be required to wear a N95 or KN95 mask.

New Courtroom Update

Judge Jon Theisen will be relocating to the new courtroom and chambers area in February (old County Board Room). He will officially begin utilizing the new courtroom February 14, 2022.

Judge Sarah Harless will then move to the courtroom and chambers area vacated by Judge Theisen. This move is expected to take place the week of February 21, 2022.

Used Legal Books Available

We are in the process of eliminating some hard and soft-cover legal publications due to their electronic availability. If you are interested in obtaining any for decorative or other purposes, please contact Ashley in the Clerk of Courts office at 715-839-4818.

Amended Local Rule 502 and 503

Just a reminder for all family law attorneys that the [local rules](#) regarding Guardian ad Litem appointments, procedures and fees in family law matters, were amended on September 1, 2021. This requires most parties to deposit \$750 with the Clerk of Court office, to be held in trust as security toward payment for the guardian ad litem (\$1,500 total). If a party does not have an ability to pay this deposit, they may complete a Financial Disclosure statement with the Clerk of Court office, and a payment plan may be arranged. A petition for waiver of this fee should not be filed, but the above procedure should be followed.

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