

**LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT RE-ENGAGEMENT
AND REOPENING PLAN FOR JURY TRIALS
COVID-19 CIRCUIT COURT OPERATING PLAN FOR JURY TRIALS
JURY TRIAL PLAN
APRIL 15, 2021**

On June 30, 2020, the Lafayette County Circuit Court approved its COVID-19 Circuit Court Operational Plan for In-Person Court ("Reopening Plan"). That plan specifically provides that jury trials are too addressed through a separate plan to be prepared and submitted for approval by the Chief Judge, and implemented separate from the balance of the court's Re-opening Plan. This addendum sets forth the overarching principles and procedures that will guide jury trials during the final phase (Phase 4) of the Court's Reopening Plan. All jury trials will be continued in the event the court reverts to either Phase 1, 2 or 3 of the Re-Opening Plan.

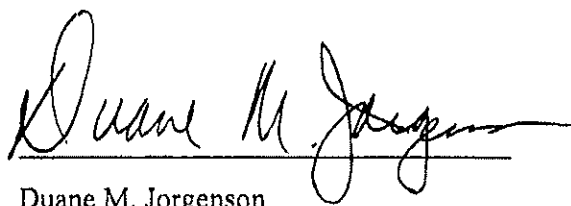
The Re-Opening Plan includes policies related to Social Distancing, Hygiene, Screening, Face Coverings, and Cleaning, all of which apply to any jury trial proceeding. In addition, Lafayette County shall conduct jury trials in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. No jury trials will be conduct until after May 17, 2021.
2. Social distancing will be of the utmost concern when dealing with jurors.
3. All prospective jurors shall wear a facemask, masks will be provided by the Court.
4. Each prospective juror will be assigned a number consistent with his or her order of call.
5. Jury selection will be in the Court Room with the jury panel given assigned seating to assure social distancing. Space in the Court Room is limited; the Court Room has a capacity of seating 30 people, while maintaining social distancing. Jury selection will be done with 12 prospective jurors, plus the number of needed alternates, if any, and a sufficient number of prospective jurors to allow for the designated number of juror strikes afforded each party. The remainder of seating shall be reserved for seating by the public.
6. All prospective jurors shall report to the County Board Room upon entering the Courthouse, located on the first floor of the Courthouse. Signage directing prospective jurors will posted. Prospective jurors to be seated in the Court Room shall be selected by random drawing by the Clerk of Court prior to the arrival of the prospective jurors. Jurors selected for seating in the Court Room shall be directed by a Court Officer to the Court Room, each prospective juror will have an assigned number and assigned seat in the Court Room.

7. All other prospective jurors will be seated in the County Board Room. A live video feed will be provided to the County Board Room to allow prospective jurors in the County Board Room to hear questions and answers to Voire Dire questions.
8. Prospective jurors seated in the Court Board Room shall be selected in the same manner as the order of selection of the remaining Prospective jurors seated in the Court Room. In the event of a juror being dismissed for cause, prospective jurors in the County Board Room will be directed to the 3rd Floor Court Room.
9. Seating of the prospective jurors and the selected jury shall be seated in the gallery area of the Court Room in designated and assigned seating.
10. The jurors will be subject to a health check each day of trial.
11. Jury deliberation shall be in the County Board Room. The Jurors shall assemble in the County Board Room each day of trial. Jurors shall have assigned seating in the County Board Room to and including jury deliberations. Bathroom access shall be permitted on the first floor. Jurors will be allowed access, the court officer shall restrict access to the rest room while a juror is using the rest room.
12. Twelve sets of jury instructions will be provided during deliberation.
13. The Court Room will be cleaned during lunch breaks and after the conclusion of the day after Court is dismissed for the day.
14. Jury deliberation rooms will be cleaned every evening during trial.
15. A live video feed will be available for any spectators and for members of the media, for viewing in the County Board Room at the discretion of the Court. Seating for the public and media is available in the Court Room.

[Signature Page Follows]

Dated: April 30, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane M. Jorgenson", written over a horizontal line.

Duane M. Jorgenson

Lafayette County Circuit Court Judge

Date: 5/11/2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Vale", written over a horizontal line.

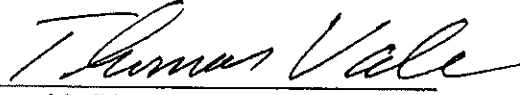
Approved: Chief Judge Thomas Vale

Fifth Judicial District

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED all previous orders identified in the Wisconsin Supreme Court's May 22, 2020 cease to apply to the Lafayette County Circuit Court on March 17, 2021.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the provisions of this order shall be subject to modification or termination by future orders.

Dated this 11 day of May, 2021.



Honorable Thomas Vale
Chief Judge, Fifth Judicial Administrative District

**IN THE MATTER OF OPERATIONAL PLAN
FOR RESUMPTION OF JURY TRIALS
- LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has entered certain orders related to the operation of the circuit courts regarding in-person proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered that although the courts of the State of Wisconsin remain open, all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before May 22, 2020 were continued and rescheduled to a date after May 22, 2020.

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, and as amended on April 15, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended, until further order of the court, most in-person proceedings, subject to exceptions for certain matters, if remote technology is not practicable or adequate to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued Interim Rule 20-02, which suspended statutory deadlines conducting non-criminal jury trials until further order of the court.

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered the March 22, 2020 order regarding the suspension of jury trials, Interim Rule 20-02 regarding the suspension of deadlines for non-criminal jury trials, and April 15, 2020 order regarding remote hearings, are extended until each circuit court submitted an operational plan for the safe resumption of in-person proceedings and jury trials and the chief judge of the applicable judicial administrative district approved the plans.

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2020, Wisconsin Supreme Court outlined the criteria required in each circuit court operational plan as to how that circuit court will conduct in-person proceedings and jury trial so as to reduce to the greatest extent possible, the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 and that promotes the health and safety of all of those present in the courtrooms, jury rooms and other court-related confined spaces of the circuit court.

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court amended its May 22, 2020 order to allow a chief judge to withdraw approval of previously approved operational plans to respond to circumstances.

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, Chief Judge Vale approved the Lafayette County Circuit Court operation plan for the resumption of in-person proceedings. The plan verifies the court has communicated with the appropriate stakeholders regarding protective measures for jury trials and includes the criteria set forth by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, the Lafayette County Circuit Court submitted an operational plan addendum for the resumption of jury trials after March 17, 2021.

IT IS ORDERED the operational plan for the resumption of jury trials in Lafayette County Circuit Court is approved, and the court shall continue to follow its plans until further order of the court.