

IN RE THE MATTER OF
APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS

FILED

JUN 18, 2021

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court
Madison, WI

You are hereby notified that the Court has issued the following order, which terminates and supersedes those portions of the Court's order of May 22, 2020 regarding appellate court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic:

WHEREAS the Supreme Court has administrative and superintending authority over the courts and judicial system of this state and a duty to promote the efficient and effective operation of the state's judicial system, Wis. Const. Art. VII, § 3; In re Kading, 70 Wis. 2d 508, 519-20, 235 N.W.2d 409 (1976); and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court issued a number of orders intended to minimize in-person proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a May 22, 2020 order that extended, in whole or in part, the following orders:

- April 2, 2020 order "In Re The Matter of Appellate Court Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic," which tolled certain appellate deadlines, discouraged non-emergency appellate motions, provided limited physical access to the clerk of court's office, and encouraged the filing of documents by mail; and
- April 8, 2020 order "In Re The Matter of Appellate Court Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Supplemental Order Regarding Notices of Appearance, Motions, and Responses to Motions," which allowed notices of appearance,

motions, and responses to motions in the appellate courts to be filed electronically and allowed appellate orders to be served electronically;

WHEREAS, the number of newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 has decreased significantly as the number of vaccinated individuals has increased in Wisconsin, and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared on May 16, 2021, that "[f]ully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing," thereby causing the Court to re-examine the restrictions that the Court has previously placed on court proceedings, including appellate court operations, due to the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to this court's administrative and superintending authority, the following portions of this Court's May 22, 2020 order entitled, "In re the Matter of the Extension of Orders Concerning Remote Administration of Oaths at Depositions, Remote Hearings in Appellate Courts, and Appellate Court Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic," are hereby terminated as of 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2021:

- The portions of the May 22, 2020 order extending and modifying the April 2, 2020 order "In Re The Matter of Appellate Court Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic," which tolled certain appellate deadlines, discouraged non-emergency appellate motions, provided limited physical access to the clerk of court's office, and encouraged the filing of documents by mail; and
- The portion of the May 22, 2020 order extending the April 8, 2020 order "In Re The Matter of Appellate Court Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Supplemental Order Regarding Notices of Appearance, Motions, and Responses to Motions;" and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective July 1, 2021, the office of the Clerk of the

Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals shall be open to the public to receive filings between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. each business day, and the Clerk's office shall take all necessary steps to insure that the public has open physical access to the second floor of the Tenney Building (110 East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin) and the Clerk's office during those hours.¹ The Clerk's office shall also take all necessary steps to insure that prominent signage is posted in the Tenney Building lobby stating that the temporary drop box located in the lobby is not to be used to deposit Clerk's office filings and that in-person filings shall be delivered to the Clerk's office on the second floor of the Tenney Building.

The State Bar of Wisconsin shall take all reasonable steps to notify its members of the contents of this order. In addition, a copy of this order shall be posted on the court system website, www.wicourts.gov.

¹ Please be advised that the Clerk's office, which is located in Suite 215 of the Tenney Building, is scheduled to undergo renovation in July 2021. As a result, for several weeks the Clerk's office will be temporarily relocated to a different location in the Tenney Building. During that time, the Clerk's office shall take all necessary steps to insure that prominent signage is posted in the lobby of the Tenney Building to inform persons having business in the Clerk's office of the temporary location of the office and how such persons may gain access to it.