

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPENSION OF
ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL WARRANTS AND
COMMITMENTS AND MISDEMEANOR BENCH
WARRANTS

Branch 1: Honorable Gregory J. Potter
Branch 2: Honorable Nicholas J. Brazeau, Jr.
Branch 3: Honorable Todd P. Wolf

EMERGENCY ORDER SUSPENDING ENFORCEMENT OF
CIVIL COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS AND
MISDEMEANOR BENCH WARRANTS

WHEREAS, Governor Evers has declared a public health emergency for the State of Wisconsin in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the judges of the three branches of the Wood County Circuit Court desire to take necessary steps to reasonably avoid or decrease the transmission of COVID-19 from one person to another, as the disease may cause serious health consequences for the individual and may place an undue strain on the health, law enforcement, court and correctional systems of the State of Wisconsin and Wood County; and,

WHEREAS, the judges of the three branches of the Wood County Circuit Court have deemed it necessary and appropriate to temporarily suspend the enforcement of various warrants and commitments, all as more particularly set forth below, in order to preserve law enforcement, corrections and court resources for the most serious offenders and offenses; and,

WHEREAS, the judges of the three branches of Wood County have the authority to suspend enforcement of their court orders, including warrants and commitments, as necessary to promote the public interest and safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, in light of the existing public health emergency, the three judges of Wood County hereby make the following findings of fact and orders as it relates to the suspension of the enforcement of civil warrants and commitments and misdemeanor bench warrants subject only to the exceptions set forth herein;

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. To protect the health of the public and the individuals who work for law enforcement, corrections and the courts in Wood County, it is necessary to temporarily limit the number of individuals who are physically present within the law enforcement, correctional and court facilities of Wood County and who come into contact with system personnel, victims and the public;
2. Enforcement of bench warrants related to misdemeanor traffic and criminal matters, other than domestic violence related misdemeanors, as well as the enforcement of civil commitment orders, imposes substantial health risks to law enforcement, corrections and court staff and personnel as well as the public due to the potential for spread of COVID-19;
3. Temporary suspension of certain warrants and commitment orders of the courts will limit the risk of transmission of disease to critical systems personnel as well as victims and the public; and,

4. Temporary suspension of certain warrants and commitment orders of the courts will reduce strain on the criminal justice system and help assure that law enforcement, corrections and the courts have the resources available to address and process matters related to the most serious criminal offenses.

ORDER

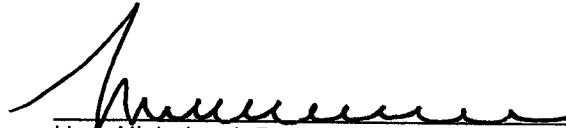
NOW, THEREFORE, UNTIL FURTHER ORDER OF THE COURT, the three judges of Wood County hereby suspend the enforcement of all of the following misdemeanor warrants and civil commitment orders:

1. Bench warrants in all misdemeanor matters but EXCLUDING bench warrants arising out of:
 - (a) any domestic violence related offense;
 - (b) the violation of a restraining order of injunction, including without limitation, restraining orders and injunctions for domestic violence, harassment, child abuse and on an individual at risk under Chapter 813; and,
 - (c) any violation of Chapter 948.
2. Child support arrest warrants and commitments;
3. Civil commitments related to the failure to pay court costs, fines and other fees; and,
4. Other civil commitments and warrants, including, without limitation, those related to civil contempt and supplemental proceedings, but EXCLUDING orders for detention in involuntary Chapter 51 proceedings.


Dated this First day of April, 2020.



Hon. Gregory J. Potter
Circuit Court Branch 1



Hon. Nicholas J. Brazeau, Jr.
Circuit Court Branch 2



Hon. Todd P. Wolf
Circuit Court Branch 3