



## *Red Cliff Tribal Court*

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Bayfield, WI 54814

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The Red Cliff Tribal Court is issuing the following guidelines in the interest of public health and safety to provide procedures and directions for proceedings and essential court functions during the next several weeks. **These guidelines are emergency and temporary measures and are only effective from March 17, 2020 through April 3, 2020, or upon further notice of the court.**

The courthouse will remain open and any change in status will be noted on the Tribal website at <http://redcliff-nsn.gov/> and through the Tribal Facebook page. The court will continue to follow CDC recommendations including social distancing practices, hand washing, and wiping down frequently touched surfaces. Court users are encouraged to contact the Red Cliff Tribal Court by telephone to address their questions and/or concerns at (715) 779-3725 as opposed to coming to the courthouse in person.

### **Traffic Court/Trial Court**

1. All hearings shall continue to be heard at the Red Cliff Tribal Court with mandatory telephone or videoconference appearances.
2. A Clerk of Court will reach out to all parties to arrange for a telephone appearance if contact information is on file. Parties may also contact a Clerk Court to provide them with contact information. Parties are strongly urged to verify that current contact information is on file with the court.
3. The court will be mindful of the Public Health Emergency in entering default judgments.

### **Family Court**

1. The following hearings shall continue to be heard at the Red Cliff Tribal Court and attorneys, lay advocates, and parties, including guardians ad litem, may request telephone appearances or continuances:
  - a. Court trials for contested family court hearings.
2. The following hearings shall continue to be heard at the Red Cliff Tribal Court with mandatory telephone or videoconference appearances:
  - a. Pre-trial and uncontested divorce hearings.
  - b. Child support and paternity hearings.
  - c. Motion hearings related to legal custody, physical placement, third-party legal custody, and visitation rights.
  - d. Review hearings.
  - e. Emergency Custody Hearings for ICW cases.
  - f. Plea hearings for Children's Code cases (e.g. minor in need of care (ICW), guardianship, adoption, and suspension of parental rights).
  - g. Dispositional hearings for ICW cases (e.g. minor in need of care (ICW), guardianship, adoption, and suspension of parental rights).

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- h. Permanency Plan Review hearings for ICW cases.
- i. Motion hearings for Children's Code cases (e.g. minor in need of care (ICW), guardianship, adoption, and suspension of parental rights).

3. The following proceedings will not occur at the Red Cliff Tribal Court during the pendency of emergency temporary measures:
  - a. Weddings.
4. For telephone appearances, parties will be noticed as follows:
  - a. For Children's Code cases, the case worker from the Red Cliff Indian Child Welfare Department will arrange for the telephone appearance of the parties. If the matter is a guardianship that was not initiated by the Indian Child Welfare Department, a Clerk of Court will reach out to parties to arrange for telephone appearance.
  - b. For child support cases initiated by the Red Cliff Child Support Agency, the case worker will arrange for the telephone appearance of the parties.
  - c. A Clerk of Court will reach out to the parties to arrange for a telephone appearance in all other matters.
    - i. The case workers may contact the clerks if they have any difficulty in arranging for the telephone appearances.
5. The court will find good cause for all Children's Court matters that are set over due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. The court will be mindful of the Public Health Emergency in entering default judgments.

#### **Court of Appeals**

1. Parties may continue to file appeals and current briefing schedules shall continue as previously established.
2. Time limit extensions shall only be granted by the court based on a written request or motion of a party or by notice and order of the court.

#### **Telephone Etiquette**

1. Be polite to the judge, opposing counsel, and court staff.
2. Do not interrupt others while they are talking. You will be called by name when it is your turn to speak. This is going to be very important during telephone appearances.
3. Refer to the judge as "Your Honor."
4. Direct all concerns and remarks to the bench and not opposing counsel.
5. Minimize background noise in your environment when appearing by phone for court.

If you are sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms such as a cough, fever or other respiratory problem, please do not come to the courthouse. If you have a court hearing scheduled and cannot make it due to illness, please call us at (715) 779-3725 to arrange for a telephone or videoconference appearance or request a continuance in writing. If you are in need of document to arrange filings, please contact the Court to arrange an electronic exchange. The Court will liberally grant continuances for court hearings and appearances during the next several weeks.

For more information on any specific case, please contact the Court at (715) 779-3725 and ask to speak with a Clerk of Court.