



Bad River Tribal Court

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The Bad River Tribal Court will be enacting emergency measures aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Bad River 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 18, 2020 through April 6, 2020, or upon further notice of the court.

The courthouse will begin working remotely and any change in status will be noticed on the Tribe's website at <http://badriver-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 Bad River Tribal Court by telephone to address their questions and/or concerns at (715) 682-7107 as opposed to coming to the courthouse in person

All non-essential court activities are hereby suspended. For remaining court functions, in an effort to minimize interpersonal contact, **teleconference will be the preferred method of holding hearings.** The Court will decide when or if an in-person hearing will take place. These court functions must continue because they involve time-sensitive issues that cannot be delayed.

Remaining court functions include:

- 1). Emergency Protection Orders. Once a petition for a protection order has been filed, a hearing will be scheduled within 24 business hours.
- 2). Emergency Placement of Children. Once Abinoojiiyag Resource Center files for the emergency removal of children from a home, an emergency hearing will take place within 24 business hours. The subsequent initial hearing will be scheduled to take place within 10 business days.
- 3). Review hearings for Abinoojiiyag Resource Center cases will be rescheduled as necessary. Issues of jurisdiction time limits will be handled if they arise.
- 4). Certain housing cases involving eviction.

5). Adult Guardianship cases. Once a petition for adult guardianship is filed, a hearing will take place within 24 business hours.

The public is encouraged to contact the Clerk of Court with any concerns or questions. The phone number is (715) 682-7107. The email address is clerkofcourt@badriver-nsn.gov.

1. For telephone appearances, parties will be noticed as follows:
 - a. For Children's Code cases, the case worker from the Abinoojiiyag Resource Center will arrange for the telephone appearance of the parties. If the matter is a guardianship that was not initiated by the Abinoojiiyag Resource Center, the Clerk of Court will reach out to parties to arrange for telephone appearance.
 - b. The 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.
2. The court will find good cause for all Children's Court matters that are set over due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The court will be mindful of the Public Health Emergency in entering default judgments.

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) 682-7107 to arrange for a telephone conference appearance or request a continuance in writing.

If you are in need of a 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.