

# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY BROWN COUNTY

300 E. WALNUT STREET, P.O. BOX 23600  
GREEN BAY, WI 54305-3600  
PHONE (920) 448-4190, FAX (920) 448-4189



**DAVID L. LASEE**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS**

Dana J. Johnson  
Mary M. Kerrigan-Mares  
Wendy W. Lemkuil

**VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATOR**

Kim Pansier  
(920) 448-4194

**SPECIAL PROSECUTOR**

Jessica R. Petras

**ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS**

John Luetscher  
Amy R.G. Pautzke  
Kevin G. Greene  
Eric R. Enli  
Kari A. Hoffman  
Hannah N. Schuchart  
Kimberly A. Hardtke  
Caleb J. Saunders  
Meranda J. Hillmann  
Jill L. Vendetti  
J. Foss Davis  
Jonathan J. Gigot  
Aaron Linssen

## **PRESS RELEASE - May 14, 2020**

On May 13, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Wisconsin Legislature v. Palm*, which immediately rendered the Safer At Home Order of Wisconsin Department of Health Secretary-designee Palm (Emergency Order 28) unenforceable except for the continued closure of schools and libraries. As a result of the Supreme Court's ruling, the Brown County District Attorney's Office will no longer prosecute criminal violations of the Safer at Home Orders and will be dismissing or amending any currently filed charges that allege a violation of the Safer at Home Order.

Last night, the Brown County Health Department enacted an Order adopting the restrictions and prohibitions outlined in Emergency Order 28. It is my understanding that Brown County's Order is intended to remain in place temporarily, until a more streamlined and less restrictive order is developed next week. The Brown County Order does not include criminal penalties, and the Brown County District Attorney's Office does not intend to prosecute violations of the Brown County Order.

However, for the benefit of the health and safety of our community, the Brown County District Attorney's Office is requesting voluntary cooperation with the current Order of the Brown County Health Department until a new Order can be developed by State or County officials.

Further, please be advised that the Brown County Code of Ordinances includes additional public health provisions which may be enforceable to prohibit a public health nuisance; and county and municipal authorities have other mechanisms for the enforcement of public health orders. Likewise, there are specific and enforceable state statutes that allow for criminal prosecution of individuals who are known to have a communicable disease who fail to follow the recommendations of a local health officer or subject others to the danger of contracting the disease.