



# Department Updates

July 2018

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## Medical Examiner

Mary Ricci  
Medical Examiner

2 <sup>ND</sup> Quarter 2018	
M.E. Department Deaths	
April	May June
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	
118	
<b>MALE</b>	
56	
<b>FEMALE</b>	
62	
<b>AGE</b>	
101 Oldest	
16 Youngest	
<b>NATURAL DEATHS</b>	
106	
<b>SUICIDE</b>	
1=GSW	
<b>ACCIDENTAL DEATHS</b>	
1=Overdose	
1=Hypothermia	
4=Falls	
3=MVA (1=OOC)	
<b>PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION</b>	
2	
<b>AUTOPSY</b>	
3	
<b>CREMATION INVESTIGATIONS</b>	
86	
<b>DEATH CERTIFICATE INVESTIGATIONS</b>	
32	
<b>UNEXPECTED DEATH SCENE INVESTIGATIONS</b>	
Ricci = 12	
Neal = 5	
Dunston = 4 Assist	
Moin = 1 & 1 Assist	
Ambrozaitis = 2	



Do you know.....

- A single tissue donor can potentially help 50 -75 people.
- There is no cost to donor families for tissue recovery.
- Tissue recovery should not interfere with any funeral arrangements the family chooses.
- Tissue differs from organs in that it includes bone, skin, heart valves, connective tissue, and veins used in surgeries and medical research.
- More than 1,000,000 tissue transplants are performed each year in the United States, about 2,750 per day. Organ transplants are done at a rate of about 80 per day. It is estimated that one in 20 Americans will need some type of tissue transplant.
- Bone and connective tissue transplants help repair fractured bones, reshape facial disfigurement, replace injured ligaments, may eliminate or reduce pain, promote faster healing, and save limbs.
- Heart valves replace defective valves and improve heart function.
- Age is no barrier to tissue donation. The donor's physical and medical conditions are taken into consideration, not arbitrary criteria such as age.
- Older people comprise the largest single group of transplant recipients. Tissue is used in many procedures involving seniors, including hip and knee replacements.

## Circuit Court

### Judge James Babler

The Barron County Circuit Court was one of five courts in Wisconsin chosen to participate in the Judicial Engagement Initiative with the Casey Family Programs. The goal of the initiative is to engage judicial systems to support children and their families involved in the child welfare system by integrating best practices, data-centered case management, and cross-system collaboration. The Casey Foundation, established by the founder of United Parcel Service (UPS), will provide technical assistance to Barron County to improve our juvenile court system with the ultimate goal to reduce the number of children in foster care.

Judge Babler, along with DHHS Youth and Family Programs Manager Karla Broten, attended an orientation meeting in Stevens Point on March 28th. There, the five counties: Barron; Jefferson; Marathon; Marinette; and Oconto joined the pilot counties of Dane, Kenosha, and Monroe to learn about the program and how it has been successful.

On June 6th, Barron County held a stakeholders meeting with all three Circuit Judges, Court staff, attorneys, Social Workers, and service providers to learn about the program and brainstorm ideas of how to improve the Court system regarding child welfare cases.

The three Circuit Judges: Babler; Bitney; and Boyle are excited to participate in the program and are committed to making any necessary changes to improve our system for the benefit of the children appearing before the Courts.

Babler said, "Barron County has been on the forefront of child-trauma practices and this is another step to improve services and outcomes for abused and neglected children. It is an example of how the Courts have partnered with the Barron County Department of Health and Human

Services to provide better services for the children of this county."

### NEW FAMILY COURTROOM

The Circuit Court began using the new Family Courtroom on May 30, 2018. The courtroom was designed to accommodate the Family Court Commissioner and any out-of-county Judges visiting Barron County.

The Family Courtroom was necessary to provide the three Circuit Judges with the ability to hold court every day. The Justice Center was opened in 2004 and designed for two Circuit Court Judges and a Family Court Commissioner. In 2008, the Wisconsin Legislature added a third Circuit Court Judge for Barron County. Due to the fact that there are only three courtrooms and four Judicial Officials, there has been an average of 35 days per year when one of the Circuit Judges has no courtroom to conduct hearings because the Family Court Commissioner needs a courtroom.

After a number of years of study and investigation, the proposal of using a part of the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) on the first floor of the Justice Center was selected as the most economical option to take.

The Circuit Judges greatly appreciate Sheriff Fitzgerald's great assistance and cooperation developing this creative solution. The new Family Courtroom provides an appropriate space for the Family Court Commissioner to hold hearings and yet provides safety and security for court staff. In addition, it allows Circuit Judges to schedule an additional 35 days per year. While not a perfect solution, it is another example of collaboration and cooperation between departments to solve difficult issues.

At the same time the new courtroom was being built, the Circuit Judges added video conferencing to the Branch 3 Courtroom. This allows the Judges to conduct mental commitment cases and bail hearings from this courtroom also. The use of video conferencing reduces the number of transports the Sheriff's Department must conduct and provides for better use of court time and resources.

The Judges also wish to thank the County Board for funding the new courtroom and video conference system. The support of the Board greatly enhances the ability of the Courts to provide timely and effective service to the citizens of this county.

