



WINNEBAGO COUNTY

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Renovation of New Family Court Center Underway – Temporary Courthouse Entrance Relocation Begins May 5

Rockford, Illinois – Winnebago County and the 17th Judicial Circuit Court are pleased to announce that renovation work on the new Family Court Center is officially underway. This significant project is designed to better serve families and individuals throughout our community, with completion anticipated by Summer 2026. Once completed, the renovated structure will support a user-friendly, litigant-focused court process, offering Family Court participants a building that is easy to navigate and more responsive to their needs.

As part of this exciting development, the main courthouse entrance will temporarily relocate to 403 Elm Street beginning May 5, 2025. The temporary entrance is located one block south of the current entrance, directly across from the Winnebago County Administration Building, near the corner of Church Street and Elm Street.

“We are thrilled to be transforming the former Public Safety Building into a vibrant, purpose-driven space to meet the needs of the public,” said Winnebago County Chairman Joseph V. Chiarelli. “The new Family Court Center will enhance access to justice and provide a more supportive environment for our community. It represents a significant investment in the well-being of families and children, and reflects our ongoing commitment to creating safe, accessible, and modern spaces for all who rely on our court system.”

The new Family Court Center is being made possible through funding from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA), as well as a significant investment by the Winnebago County Board. Once completed, the facility will feature:

- Modernized courtrooms
- An enhanced Domestic Violence Assistance Center
- A reimagined jury assembly room
- A welcoming children’s waiting room



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“We are grateful to Chairman Chiarelli and the Winnebago County Board for their vision and investment in this renovation project,” said 17th Circuit Chief Judge John S. Lowry. “The new Family Court Center represents more than just bricks and mortar—it is a commitment to providing a more compassionate, accessible, and effective justice system for the families we serve. This facility will stand as a cornerstone of support and hope for individuals during some of the most challenging times in their lives.”

The community’s patience and support are greatly appreciated during this period of transition and growth.

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