



WISCONSIN

# SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

**Ryan O'Rourke**

*Sheboygan County Family Court Commissioner*

## SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibility of the Court Commissioner's Office is to assist in the administration of the court system. This is usually by conducting preliminary matters in certain court proceedings, including temporary order hearings in divorces; probable cause hearings in mental commitments; bail hearings and initial appearances in traffic, small claims, ordinance, paternity and juvenile court hearings. The Assistant Court Commissioner serves the courts by researching complex legal issues and advising the judges how the law should be applied in particular situations. This office helps the courts by rendering final decisions in stipulated divorces, domestic abuse and harassment injunction hearings, and most small claims cases. We help the courts through mediation. Small claims disputes and child custody disputes are mediated through this office before they go to trial. If litigants are able to resolve matters through mediation, the time and expense of a trial will be avoided.