

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2020-08

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND  
FOR ORANGE AND OSCEOLA  
COUNTIES, FLORIDA

**TEMPORARY ORDER GOVERNING  
BATTERERS' INTERVENTION PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and the power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Chief Judge's constitutional and statutory responsibility for administrative supervision of the courts within the circuit and considering available resources, to create and maintain an organization capable of effecting the efficient, prompt, and proper administration of justice for the citizens of this State, the Chief Judge is required to exercise direction, *see* Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.215(b)(2), (b)(3); and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and the Florida Department of Health have advised people to take precautions in light of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, and specifically noting the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus through such measures as small gatherings and social distancing; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Ron DeSantis declared a State of Emergency on March 1, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, Orange County declared a Local State of Emergency on March 13, 2020, and Osceola County declared a Local State of Emergency on March 16, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-13, In Re: COVID-19 Emergency Procedures in the Florida State Courts, requiring Chief Judges to continue ongoing planning and authorizing the use of mitigating measures to address the effects of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-15, In Re: COVID-19 Essential and Critical Trial Court Proceedings, requiring that no proceedings or other court events other than essential proceedings and proceedings critical to the state of emergency or the public health emergency shall be conducted through in-person hearings until such time as the public health emergency is resolved, or as provided by subsequent order; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Administrative Order No.: AOSC20-15, In Re: COVID-19 Essential and Critical Trial Court Proceedings, the Chief Judge may determine that other proceedings and events can be effectively conducted remotely without the necessity of in-person court appearances; and