

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2020-06-02

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

**AMENDED TEMPORARY ORDER GOVERNING TRIAL COURT PROCEEDINGS**

**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

**WHEREAS**, on April 6, 2020, Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-23, In Re: Comprehensive COVID-19 Emergency Measures for the Florida State Court, extending, refining, and strengthening previously enacted temporary remedial measures. The measures now remain in effect until the close of business on May 29, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, in conducting essential proceedings and proceedings critical to the state of emergency or the public health emergency, circuit and county courts shall employ all methods practicable to minimize risk of COVID-19 exposure to individuals involved in the proceedings or the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, during the duration of Administrative Order Nos. AOSC20-13 and AOSC20-15, the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit is authorized to establish temporary procedures for the use, to the maximum extent feasible, of communication equipment for the conducting of proceedings by remote electronic means, as are necessary in their respective circuits due to the public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 40.001, Florida Statutes, the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit is vested with overall authority and responsibility for the management, operation, and oversight of the jury system within his or her circuit, and section 905.01, Florida Statutes, requires the Chief Judge to regularly convene the grand jury for a term of 6 months.

In accordance with the authority vested in the Chief Judge by Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, sections 40.001, 43.26, and 905.01, Florida Statutes, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, and to promote public safety, it is hereby **ORDERED, effective immediately:**

(1) The Ninth Judicial Circuit and County Courts shall continue to perform essential court proceedings, including but not limited to: first appearance; criminal arraignments as necessary; hearings on motions to set or modify monetary bail for individuals who are in custody; juvenile dependency shelter hearings; juvenile delinquency detention hearings; hearings on petitions for temporary injunctions relating to safety of an individual; hearings on petitions for risk protection orders; hearings on petitions for the appointment of an emergency temporary guardian; hearings to determine whether an individual should be involuntarily committed under the Baker Act or the Marchman Act; and hearings on petitions for extraordinary writs as necessary to protect constitutional rights.

(2) The Ninth Judicial Circuit and County Courts shall also perform, as necessary and applicable, critical proceedings related to the state of emergency or the public health emergency, including but not limited to proceedings related to: violation of quarantine or isolation; violation of orders to limit travel; violation of orders to close public or private buildings; and enforcement of curfew orders.

(3) Pursuant to section 43.26(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, the Clerks of Court, State Attorney, Public Defender, and other officers of the Court must attend court proceedings as directed by the Chief Judge or Presiding Judge. In conducting proceedings, the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court shall employ all methods practicable to minimize risk of COVID-19 exposure to