

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:
21- 11 4th AMENDED
SUPERSEDES 21-11 3RD
AMENDED
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2, 2021

IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE RULES - COVID-19 PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, reopening the courts of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit has been in conformity with AOSC 20-23 and AOSC 20-32 as periodically amended; and

WHEREAS, having determined that the judicial branch can now transition to operations where in-person contact is more broadly authorized, the Florida Supreme Court issued AOSC 21-17 on June 4, 2021 which provides that AOSC 20-23 and AOSC 20-32 shall terminate at 12:01 a.m. on June 21, 2021; and AOSC 21-17 Amendment 1 on July 29, 2021 provides the Chief Judge the authority for implementation of health and safety protocols;

WHEREAS, AOSC 21-17 establishes new, temporary health and safety protocols and extends and modifies previously enacted temporary emergency operational measures.

THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority of the Chief Judge under section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Effective August 2, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. as follows:

1. All persons entering the Courthouse or attending an in-Court proceeding may wear a face mask if they choose, however they are not required to wear a facemask.
2. If a person chooses to wear a face mask and does not have one, a face mask shall be provided to that person by Court administration in each county.
3. In the event of any in-person essential proceedings, the Presiding Judge shall take necessary steps to ensure social distancing in order to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. The Presiding Judge must ensure that all participants in the proceeding maintain at least a 6-foot "social distance" from each other at all times.
4. All Baker and Marchman Act proceedings shall be conducted remotely.
5. Each judge shall take all necessary steps to support the remote conduct of other trial court proceedings with the use of technology, in accordance with this administrative order. For purposes of this administrative order, "remote conduct," or "conducted remotely" means the conduct, in part or in whole, of a court proceeding using telephonic or other electronic means.
6. All jury trials shall be conducted in person, unless consent is provided as directed in Section II.E.(3)a of Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC 20-17. The parties shall exercise appropriate social distancing for all jury trials.

7. All Judges may exercise their discretion in determining whether any other proceedings shall be conducted in person or remotely.

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect until further notice or until superseded by further order of this Court or the Florida Supreme Court.

DONE AND ORDERED this 30th day of July, 2021.


JESSICA RECKSIEDLER
CHIEF JUDGE

Distribution:

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