

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Administrative Order 2020-76-CO

**REQUIRING THE FILING OF EVIDENCE IN
CERTAIN CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS**

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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 that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus.
- (c) Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Ron DeSantis declared a State of Emergency on March 1, 2020, Broward County declared a Local State of Emergency on March 10, 2020, and the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020.
- (d) Since March 17, 2020, the Florida Supreme Court has issued various emergency administrative orders addressing the judicial branch's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The emergency orders can be found here: <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Emergency>.
- (e) The Florida Supreme Court's emergency orders authorize the chief judge to take all necessary steps to facilitate the remote conduct of judicial proceedings with the use of technology in order to maintain judicial workflow to the maximum extent feasible, and further requires all trial court proceedings except for those designated essential or critical to the state of emergency or the public health emergency to be conducted remotely.
- (f) The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit (Broward County) is designated a "very large" circuit comprising approximately 2 million residents and receiving millions

of visitors each year, resulting in hundreds of thousands of civil traffic infraction citations and corresponding cases.

(g) The following guidelines requiring evidence in civil traffic infraction proceedings to be filed and submitted to the court prior to trial are necessary to avoid substantial delays in proceedings and to help facilitate the swift disposition of such cases in light of the court's recent transformation to remote video proceedings.

(h) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED, effective Tuesday, September 29, 2020:**

(1) At the time of filing with the Clerk of Court any civil traffic citation that is unrelated to a red light camera infraction, the filing party shall also file all evidence supporting such citation.

(2) Failure to comply with this Administrative Order by timely filing evidence at the time of filing the citation or prior to trial may result in a dismissal of the citation. Determinations relating to non-compliance are vested with the discretion of the presiding judge or hearing officer.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 14th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge