

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

Administrative Order No. 2021-23-CO

**INSTITUTING UNIFORM PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY CIVIL JURY
TRIALS ORIGINATING IN THE SATELLITE COURTHOUSES**

(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) In accordance with the authority vested in the Chief Judge by Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

(1) County Court Civil Division Judges presiding in the satellite courthouses may retain their cases for jury trial. In such cases, the presiding judge shall advise the County Civil Administrative Judge of the need of a courtroom for jury trials. Satellite Judges choosing not to retain their civil cases for jury trial shall transfer their cases to the Central Courthouse only in accordance with the requirements set forth in this Administrative Order.

(2) Except for those eviction cases and small claims cases for which a timely demand for jury trial has been made, County Court civil cases that are pending before a judge at a satellite courthouse location may not be transferred for jury trial to a county civil division judge located at the Central Courthouse until:

- (a) the court determines that a demand for jury trial has been timely made;
- (b) the court determines that a compliant joint pretrial stipulation has been filed as specified in the applicable Uniform Pretrial Order or Case Management Order;
- (c) all pending motions are disposed of or ruled upon, including motions for summary judgment; and
- (d) a case management conference is held at which the court determines that the parties truly have factual issues that a jury must determine.

If the parties acknowledge or stipulate that the only issues pending are legal issues, the judge may not transfer the case to the Central Courthouse. For purposes of this

paragraph, a small claims case is one in which the trial deadlines of the Small Claim Rules remain applicable.

(3) For cases that are pending before a judge at a satellite courthouse location, the judge should not include any firm trial date, pretrial conference date, or calendar call date in the Uniform Case Management Order unless the judge will be retaining the case and presiding over the jury trial.

(4) This Administrative Order shall be effective immediately and remain in effect until further order of this Court.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 19th day of May, 2021.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge