

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

Administrative Order 2021-55-Temp

COVID-19 ISSUES IN THE BROWARD COUNTY JAIL SYSTEM

(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) Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the chief judge “shall, considering available resources, ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within [this] circuit.”

(c) The Sheriff of Broward County, Florida, as the Chief Executive Officer of the Broward County Jail, is responsible for the safety and security of jail staff and inmates. Due to close quarters and a sealed environment, COVID-19 infection rates within the jail environment can be significantly higher than in the community.

(d) Inmate population levels in the Broward County Main Jail have reached pre-COVID-19 levels, with jail staff quarantining COVID-19 positive or suspected COVID-19 positive inmates, and as such, COVID-19 continues to affect jail and courthouse operations.

(e) 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, Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

(1) To alleviate potential overcrowding within the Broward County Jail System, the Chief Judge, the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Criminal Division, and the Administrative Judge of the County Criminal Division may approve the release from custody of an inmate that does not pose a public safety risk.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 29th day of September, 2021,

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge