

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

Administrative Order 2020-21-Temp

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
SUSPENDING JURY TRIALS AND JURY OPERATIONS**

- (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) On March 11, 2020 Chief Justice Charles Canady issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-12, *In Re: Response of the Florida State Courts System to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*, requiring chief judges to continue ongoing planning and authorizing the use of mitigating measures to address the effects of COVID-19.
- (e) Florida Rule of 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.”
- (f) 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.

(g) 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 Monday, March 16, 2020:**

(1) All jury trials scheduled to begin during the weeks of Monday, March 16, 2020 and Monday, March 23, 2020 are postponed until further order of this Court.

(2) Jury trials that are currently in progress shall continue, unless the presiding judge orders otherwise.

(3) No individual summoned to appear for jury duty during the weeks of Monday, March 16, 2020 and Monday, March 23, 2020, shall appear during this time. This Administrative Order does not affect the validity of summonses already issued to individuals summoned for jury duty during this time or thereafter. Individuals with questions as to jury service during this time and thereafter shall contact the Broward County Clerk of Courts, Jury Administration, at 954-831-6091.

(4) No individual currently serving on the grand jury or statewide grand jury shall appear for such service during the weeks of Monday, March 16, 2020 and Monday, March 23, 2020.

(5) **Speedy Trial.** Any defendant facing criminal charges who raises a speedy trial issue because of the suspension of jury duty during the times set forth herein shall file a written motion and provide a courtesy copy to the Administrative Judge of Circuit Criminal Division or Chairperson of the County Criminal Division, as appropriate, and the Chief Judge.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 13th day of March, 2020.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge