

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

Administrative Order 2021-43-Temp

SPECIAL STATUS DOCKET

- (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) On July 29, 2021, the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court issued AOSC21-17, Amendment 1 (July 29, 2021), in recognition of increased COVID-19 cases throughout the state of Florida, giving chief judges increased discretion due to worsening local health conditions.
- (d) Local COVID-19 health conditions have steadily worsened over the past several weeks and Broward County is currently an area of high transmission.
- (e) 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.
- (f) In accordance with AOSC21-17, Amendment 1 (July 29, 2021), the authority vested in the Chief Judge pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:
- (1) A Special Status docket will be held Monday through Friday afternoon at 1:30pm, excluding court holidays.

(2) A list of eligible defendants for the Special Status docket will be coordinated by the Broward County Jail, State Attorney, Public Defender, Office of Regional Counsel, and Clerk of the Court, with notification given to private defense attorneys, if applicable.

(3) The Special Status docket shall have priority over any other docket, and the Division Judge shall have the authority to determine release conditions of any in-custody inmate, including modification of bond, if necessary.

(4) All judges shall give priority to public safety concerns when determining release conditions for persons on the Special Status docket.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 31st day of August 2021.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge