



**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER # 2020-00-04

**RE: COVID-19 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IN THE
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

WHEREAS, the Florida State Courts System continues to monitor and proactively address the effects on court operations of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), a severe acute respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Florida has declared a state emergency exists, the Surgeon General and State Health Officer has declared a public health emergency exists, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Florida Department of Health, and the Florida Department of Management Services have published after-travel health precaution information; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and well-being of courthouse visitors, court employees, and judicial officers are a high priority for the Florida State Courts System; and

WHEREAS, AOSC20-13 authorizes all chief judges of the circuit and district courts to continue ongoing efforts to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the courts and court participants and to prepare to activate and implement continuity of operations (COOP) plans to address the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, AOSC20-13 authorizes the chief judge of each judicial circuit to establish temporary procedures for the use, to the maximum extent feasible, of communication equipment for the conducting of proceedings by remote electronic means, as are necessary, in their respective circuits due to the public health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED the following shall take place until further order:

All in-custody Criminal proceedings shall be conducted electronically. All transport orders to and from the courthouses of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit shall be rescinded.

All in-person mass dockets (Criminal, Dependency, Family CMC's, Juvenile Delinquency, Child Support) are suspended until further order.

All Civil and Probate/Guardianship proceedings shall be conducted telephonically, except as required by Florida Statutes.

All Mediations are suspended except for Circuit Civil and Family mediations, which may proceed by video or by telephone on a case by case basis.

Child Support 48-hour hearings will continue to be heard telephonically or by video.

Juvenile Detention hearings will continue to be heard electronically (by video or telephonically) or in person as directed by a presiding judge on a case by case basis.

Dependency Shelter hearings will continue to be heard by video or telephonically.

Domestic Violence proceedings shall be continued by the presiding judge as circumstances warrant.

All problem-solving courts (Drug Court, Therapeutic Justice Court, Veterans' Treatment Court, and Early Childhood Court) are suspended until further order.

Bay County Teen Court hearings and activities are suspended until further order.

Baker/Marchman proceedings will be conducted telephonically or by video if available.

Risk Protection Orders will continue to be heard in person as directed by Florida Statutes.

Bay County PreTrial Release programs will implement enrollment and check-ins by telephone. The Bay County Work Program will suspend work hours. UA's will also be suspended.

Calhoun, Washington, Jackson County Probation Offices shall implement a telephonic check-in process with UA's and work hours suspended.

The Chief Judge or designee will continue to monitor the jail populations to determine eligibility for release. All judges presiding over criminal matters will conduct a review of inmates for determination of revised bonds and/or PreTrial Release.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Panama City, Bay County, Florida, this 16th day of March, 2020.



CHRISTOPHER N. PATTERSON
CHIEF JUDGE