

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, OKEECHOBEE, AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES
STATE OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-06

**IN RE: COVID-19 REOPENING PROCEDURES
ESTABLISHMENT OF COVID-19 REOPENING WORKGROUP**

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Administrative Order (AO) 2020-01 implemented the Chief Justice's Administrative Order AOSC-20-15, canceling or postponing non-essential court proceedings;

WHEREAS, by its terms AO 2020-01 is coterminous with AOSC 20-15;

WHEREAS, AOSC 20-23 extended the effective date of AOSC 20-15 to May 29, 2020;

WHEREAS, AOSC 20-23 *Amended 1* extended the timeframe to preclude jury trials to July 2, 2020, but left in place the May 29, 2020 deadline for the complete restriction of in-person non-essential court work;

WHEREAS, AOSC 20-23 *Amended 1* also ordered that certain otherwise non-essential proceedings be conducted remotely unless determined to be unconstitutional or infeasible;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

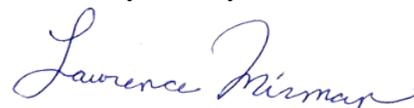
WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020 the Governor issued Executive Order 20-112 (Phase 1: *Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery*), effective May 4, 2020, which strongly discourages persons from congregating in large groups, stating, "Local jurisdictions shall ensure that groups of people greater than ten are not permitted to congregate in any public space that does not readily allow for *appropriate physical distancing*." (Emphasis added.)

THEREFORE, in order to implement the objectives of AOSC 20-23 *Amended 1* and Executive Order 20-112 and all orders and phases anticipated to follow, and pursuant to the authority of the Chief Judge under section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. All judges, magistrates and hearing officers shall evaluate their caseloads and implement procedures consistent with AOSC 20-23 and Executive Order 20-112 to maximize remote work and thereby ensure that occupancy of court facilities does not exceed the Governor's extant directives relating to large capacity public facilities.
2. Judges, magistrates and hearing officers may adjust their procedures and dockets consistent with the Governor's subsequent executive orders as he may advance the phases of reopening.
3. Effective May 30, 2020, appropriate social distancing protocols shall be observed in all court facilities.
4. The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Covid-19 Reopening Workgroup is hereby established and shall be comprised of Jury Management Administrative Judge David Morgan, representatives of Court Administration, and a representative from the following: Office of the State Attorney; Office of the Public Defender; each Clerk of Court; each Sheriff; and each County Administration within the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.
5. The Workgroup shall establish safety protocols for court facilities, including but not limited to physical distancing between individuals, the use of hand sanitizer, temperature screening, questionnaire screening, and ongoing disinfection measures for court facilities.
6. The Workgroup shall also establish protocols for the assembly and use of Jurors.
7. The Workgroup may adjust the protocols consistent with the Governor's subsequent executive orders as he may advance the phases of reopening.
8. The protocols shall be announced by the Trial Court Administrator and implemented by the respective Sheriffs within all courthouse facilities.
9. This Administrative Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further notice or until superseded by further order of this Court or the Florida Supreme Court.

DONE AND ORDERED at Stuart, Florida this 7th day of May, 2020.



LAWRENCE MIRMAN, CHIEF JUDGE