

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 11.39

**RESUMPTION OF PRE-PANDEMIC COURT OPERATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2021, the Florida Supreme Court issued AOSC21-17 authorizing Chief Judges to remove various limitations on in-person court events beginning June 21, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, this Court has determined that local conditions are such that it is in the best interest of the circuit to return to pre-pandemic court operations on June 21, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, this Order is entered pursuant to the authority vested in the Chief Judge by Article V, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution, as well as the Administrative Orders issued by the Florida Supreme Court referenced above,

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that

1. **COVID EMERGENCY ORDERS RESCINDED**

Effective June 21, 2021, Eighth Circuit COVID-19 Emergency Administrative Orders 11.23 through 11.38, and the Circuit's COVID-19 Emergency Operational Plan are rescinded.

2. **RETURN TO PRE-PANDEMIC COURT OPERATIONS**

Effective June 21, 2021, the circuit shall return to pre-pandemic court operations, except as specifically set forth in this Order, including the elimination of screening questions, masking requirements, physical distancing requirements, and limitations on in-person court events.

Participants and observers shall not be prohibited from wearing face masks, and requests from participants for physical distancing shall be addressed by the court at the time of the request.

### 3. **REMOTE PROCEEDINGS**

The presiding judge or judicial officer shall determine whether a proceeding shall be conducted in-person, remotely, or hybrid, with the exception of the proceedings set forth below which must be conducted in-person:

- A) Grand jury selection and proceedings, civil jury selection and trial proceedings, and criminal jury selection and trial proceedings.
- B) Non-jury trials in criminal cases, unless the requirements set forth in AOSC21-17 Section II. E. (3) a. ii are satisfied.
- C) Hearings to determine whether an individual should be involuntarily committed under the Baker Act or Marchman Act, unless the individual waives the right to physical presence. When a hearing of this type takes place in a hospital or other setting outside of the courthouse, the presiding judge or judicial officer shall the authority to require all participants and observers to wear face masks.

As set forth in AOSC21-17, Section II. A. (4) and Section II. B, all rules of procedure or court orders that limit the use of communication equipment for conducting remote hearings and administration of oaths, remain suspended.

### 4. **JUROR EXCUSALS AND POSTPONEMENTS**

Persons who are summoned for possible juror service shall no longer be entitled to an automatic excusal or postponement for COVID-19 related reasons. Effective with the date of entry of this Order, the Clerk of the Court shall no longer include the “Supplemental Excusal or Postponement Request” insert with juror summonses.

5. **MEDIATIONS**

Effective July 6, 2021, court program mediations may be conducted in-person.

6. **SPEEDY TRIAL**

All time periods involving speedy trial procedure in criminal proceedings, juvenile proceedings, and noncriminal traffic infraction proceedings shall be as set forth in AOSC21-17 Section II. E. (8), (9), & (12).

7. **OUT OF CIRCUIT ARRESTS**

Effective June 21, 2021, the procedure for addressing Defendants arrested on warrants or capiases from another Florida jurisdiction shall return to pre-pandemic operations.

8. **FAMILY LAW FORMS**

The requirement that Florida Family Law forms be notarized or signed in the presence of a deputy clerk remains suspended, under the terms and condition set forth in AOSC21-17 Section II. (13).


9. **VISITATION FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION OF DCF**

Objections to in-person visitation for children under the protective supervision of the Department of Children and Families on COVID-19 grounds, shall be considered by the presiding judge or judicial officer as set forth in AOSC21-17 Section II. (14).

10. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Order shall take effect on June 21, 2021.

**ORDERED ON** this 7th day of June, 2021.

  
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Mark W. Moseley, Chief Judge