

**IN THE JUVENILE DIVISIONS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR ESCAMBIA, SANTA ROSA, OKALOOSA, AND WALTON  
COUNTIES, FLORIDA  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-15**

**RE: TEMPORARY OMNIBUS ORDER IN ALL DELINQUENCY CASES  
REGARDING ORDERS TO TAKE INTO CUSTODY/FAILURE TO APPEAR  
CUSTODY ORDERS**

**WHEREAS**, juvenile detention hearings are essential/necessary proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, juveniles in the First Judicial Circuit are regularly arrested on outstanding orders to take into custody (“OTTICs”) for failure to appear (“FTA”) for a prior properly noticed court hearing, and most of those OTTICs contain language that the juvenile is not to be released "until seen by a judge"; and

**WHEREAS**, many juveniles arrested on OTTIC/FTA custody orders do not meet the criteria to be held in secure detention based on the Department of Juvenile Justice’s Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (the “DRAI”) but are still held in a Juvenile Detention Center until seen by a judge as required by the terms of the custody order that supported the arrest; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the juveniles, their families, and all court staff, participants, security, and judges to minimize in-person interactions for the foreseeable future while the COVID-19 pandemic runs its course; and

**WHEREAS**, all First Judicial Circuit judges are directed to employ all methods practicable to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to everyone involved in court proceedings and the general public.

**ACCORDINGLY**, under the authority vested in the undersigned as the Chief Judge for the First Judicial Circuit, **it is ORDERED:**

1. All juveniles arrested in Escambia or Santa Rosa County on outstanding OTTIC/FTA custody orders will continue to be taken to the Escambia Regional Juvenile Detention Center for detention screening.
2. All juveniles arrested in Okaloosa or Walton County on outstanding OTTIC/FTA custody orders will continue to be taken to the Okaloosa Regional Juvenile Detention Center for detention screening.
3. Juveniles who score a 12 or lower on the DRAI shall be released directly from the respective Juvenile Detention Center to their parents or legal guardians on regular "Home Detention" status, notwithstanding any language in any OTTIC/FTA

custody order indicating the juveniles should not be released until seen by a judge. Prior to release, the Department of Juvenile Justice shall notify the Office of the State Attorney of those juveniles who are to be released, and shall give the Office of the State Attorney the opportunity to request that, in cases in which the safety of the child or his/her parent, guardian, or family member is at risk or in other exceptional circumstances, the juvenile be held over for a detention hearing.

4. Juveniles who score a 13 or higher on the DRAI shall remain in Secure Detention and shall be entitled to a detention hearing within 24 hours.
5. Any juvenile released directly from either of the juvenile detention centers under this Temporary Omnibus Order, along with the juvenile's parent or legal guardian, shall be instructed by the Department of Juvenile Justice to participate in the next custody/detention hearing by electronic means, i.e. teleconference or video conference.
6. This Temporary Omnibus Order is effective upon signature and will remain in effect until otherwise terminated via a future Administrative Order.

**DONE AND ORDERED** at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
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**JOHN L. MILLER**  
**Chief Judge**

Copies furnished to:  
All Judges, First Judicial Circuit  
All Clerks, First Judicial Circuit  
William Eddins, State Attorney, First Judicial Circuit  
Bruce Miller, Public Defender, First Judicial Circuit  
Robin Wright, Trial Court Administrator  
Kasey Watson, Public Information Officer  
Paul Wallis, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
For Broadcast by: Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association  
For Broadcast by: Okaloosa Bar Association  
For Broadcast by: Walton County Bar Association  
For Posting at [www.FirstJudicialCircuit.org](http://www.FirstJudicialCircuit.org)