

IN THE COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-16

RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC – EXTENDING APPLICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS UNTIL MAY 29, 2020

WHEREAS, the Florida State Courts System is continuing to address the massive effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on court operations; and

WHEREAS, many court proceedings have been or will be substantially delayed and the trial courts must continue to make efforts to conduct court business by remote means, and to employ comprehensive social distancing practices to the extent possible to slow the spread of this dangerous disease; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned has previously issued AO2020-08, dated March 19, 2020, and effective for 30 days, which defined mission critical proceedings and established procedures for conducting same with limited in-person contact during these unprecedented circumstances; and

WHEREAS, numerous other administrative orders relevant to the pandemic response are set to expire on or about April 17, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida in AOSC20-23 has ordered that in-person court proceedings in the trial courts of this State should continue to be limited until the close of business on May 29, 2020, in order to protect the public safety;

NOW THEREFORE; it is,

ORDERED:

1. In keeping with the order of the Supreme Court of Florida, the provisions of First Judicial Circuit Administrative Order 2020-08, entitled “COVID-19 Essential and Critical Trial

Court Proceedings” are hereby extended until close of business on May 29, 2020, or until further order of the undersigned.

2. The following administrative orders are also extended until close of business on May 29, 2020, or until further order of the undersigned:

AO2020-09 – “Emergency Procedures for Visitation in Dependency Cases in the First Judicial Circuit”

AO2020-11 – “Additional Procedures for Criminal Competency Hearings”

AO2020-12 – “Administration of Cases in Which a Defendant is Arrested on a Warrant or Capias from Another Florida Jurisdiction or County”

3. Each administrative judge has submitted a plan to the undersigned or entered an administrative directive which outlines procedures for completing mission-critical functions in the respective counties of the First Judicial Circuit. Those judges who have entered administrative directives shall enter any new administrative directives as required to comply with this order and AOSC20-23. Those administrative judges who have submitted written plans shall continue to operate under their submitted plans until May 29, 2020, or further order of the undersigned.

DONE AND ORDERED in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida this 7th day of April,

2020.



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

Elizabeth Miller, Child Welfare Legal Services

Bryan Carter, Guardian Ad Litem

Mark Jones, President of Family First Network

Paul Wallis, Chief Probation Officer for Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Justice Administrative Commission

Candice Brower, Office of Criminal Conflict Counsel

Craig Waters, Director of Public Information, Florida Supreme Court

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