

**IN THE COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2023-21

RE: TEMPORARY ALTERATIONS TO CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT TIME CONSTRAINTS

WHEREAS, Rule 2.545, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, requires judges to take charge of cases and control case progress until no further judicial action is required; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida, in AOSC21-17, Amendment 3, has implemented procedures requiring presiding judges to actively manage civil cases; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Supreme Court's directive, the undersigned entered Administrative Order 2021-12 outlining the circuit's civil case management plan, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida has recently in AOSC 23-29 acknowledged that circuits throughout the State have experienced a "temporary but significant increase in case filings in certain categories of civil cases," and

WHEREAS, by virtue of AOSC 23-29, the Chief Justice has granted circuits the discretion "as to the cases involved in the recent filings increase, to use the date of service . . . as the starting point for calculating the allowable time for case completion" but only "to the extent reasonably necessary,"

NOW, THEREFORE; pursuant to the authority of the Chief Judge, under section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b),

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. As prescribed in Administrative Order 2021-12, service of civil complaints must still be made within 120 days after the filing of said complaint unless the presiding judge grants

an extension. However, the time periods for the remaining case management deadlines as outlined in Administrative Order 2021-12 **should be calculated, temporarily, from the date of final service, not the date of complaint filing.**

2. This temporary accommodation will apply to civil cases which are otherwise subject to Administrative Order 2021-12, and only as to those cases filed between March 17, 2023 and December 31, 2023.
3. This order will be effective upon signature, and will expire at midnight on December 31, 2023, at which time the deadlines as outlined in Administrative Order 2021-12 will again be in effect.

DONE AND ORDERED in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, this 22nd day of June, 2023.

//S// John L. Miller

JOHN L. MILLER
CHIEF JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

All Judges, First Judicial Circuit
All Clerks of Court, First Judicial Circuit
Kasey R. Watson, Trial Court Administrator
Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney
Bruce Miller, Public Defender
Candice Brower, Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel
Justice Administration Commission
Paul Flemming, Florida Supreme Court
For Broadcast by: Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association
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