

Revisions to Twentieth Judicial Circuit Operations Plan

Masks and social distancing still required during in-person court proceedings

Chief Judge Michael T. McHugh has signed off on the fourth amendment to the Twentieth Judicial Circuit's Operational Plan. Changes to the Operational Plan were made in accordance to two amended Administrative Orders from the Florida Supreme Court amending restrictions when entering and moving around the 20th Judicial Circuit courthouses.

Mask are no longer required to enter any of our courthouses. However, face masks covering the nose and mouth are required for everyone during in-person court proceedings with no exceptions. Social distancing is also still required inside the courtrooms and jury assembly rooms.

Any person may voluntarily choose to wear a face mask in a public common area our courthouses when not attending an in-person court proceeding. If a visitor requests a face mask one will be provided at no cost.

Social distancing measures are no longer required in public common areas, hallways, elevators, restrooms, etc. within the 20th Circuit. While the Circuit still remains in Phase Two of operations, the amended order also suspends all health and safety screening measures at courthouse entrances, including required temperature checks.

Remote technology is strongly encouraged and will still be used as an alternative to in-person proceedings to limit and minimize person-to-person contact. Live-streaming services will still be provided.

For in-person hearings, the only persons allowed in the courtrooms are parties, attorneys, victims, witnesses, court reporter, court interpreter, court/clerk/sheriff personnel whose presence is essential (including case managers, deputy clerks and bailiffs) and the media, subject to the approval of the presiding judge and subject to all available "social distancing" methods.

This Administrative Order supersedes all other Administrative Orders and directives and is effective immediately.

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