

**Twentieth Judicial Circuit Administrative Office of the Court  
COVID-19 Advisory #2**

**The Twentieth Judicial Circuit Courthouses are open, with limitations to address  
to COVID-19**

The Twentieth Judicial Circuit Administrative Office of the Courts continues to closely monitor COVID-19. At this time all courthouses remain open.

An update to Twentieth Judicial Court Operations is as follows:

All Civil and Family Law Court Events taking place within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit shall be conducted by Remote Electronic means in lieu of In-Person Appearances, with the exception of Domestic Violence Injunction Hearings.

Specifically as it relates to Family Law pending cases:

- All Family Law Trials are cancelled until further notice.
- All Family Law Non-Evidentiary hearings shall be telephonic.
- All Family Law Evidentiary hearings may be cancelled or held telephonically, at the sole discretion of the presiding judge on a case-by-case basis.
- Domestic Violence Injunction hearings shall continue as scheduled, at this time.

Attorneys, parties and witnesses with upcoming trials or hearings are advised to contact the appropriate judicial office with any questions. Please see Memo 2, which is the latest memo signed by Chief Judge Michael McHugh.

In addition, Courtroom attendance within all courtrooms of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit shall be limited to attorneys, parties, and necessary witnesses. There are exceptions that may be made by the presiding judge on a case-by-case basis. More information can be found in Memo 1.

All of the 20th Circuit's Probation and Pretrial Services Departments are utilizing telephonic reporting through March 27 to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

In a statewide order issued Friday afternoon by Florida Chief Justice Charles Canady, grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings, and criminal and civil jury trials have been suspended for two weeks. The order takes effect Monday, March 16, 2020 and is effective until Friday, March 27, 2020. A subsequent order from the Chief Justice may further extend this timeline. This means that jurors do not have to appear for jury duty during these dates.

We have added supplemental deep cleaning throughout our Circuit to assist with the prevention of respiratory illnesses from spreading. This includes high traffic lobby areas, elevators, security checkpoints, and courtrooms. We have also added additional antibacterial stations. Information from the CDC has also been posted throughout our courthouses.

We are reminding employees about proper hand washing techniques, respiratory etiquette, and encourage our employees who are sick to stay home.

Contact the Clerk of Court's Office for additional juror information.

Please continue to visit our website [www.ca.cjis20.org/](http://www.ca.cjis20.org/) and social media @swflcourts on Twitter and Instagram for future updates.

###