

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Administrative Order 2020-20-Temp

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
RESTRICTING CERTAIN VISITORS TO COURTHOUSES**

- (a) Pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the chief judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and the power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice.
- (b) Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the chief judge “shall, considering available resources, ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within this circuit.”
- (c) The Centers for Disease Control and the Florida Department of Health have advised people to take precautions in light of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, and specifically noting that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus.
- (d) Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Ron DeSantis declared a State of Emergency on March 1, 2020, Broward County declared a Local State of Emergency on March 10, 2020, and the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020.
- (e) Chief Justice Charles Canady on March 11, 2020 issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-12, *In Re: Response of the Florida State Courts System to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*, requiring chief judges to continue ongoing planning and authorizing the use of mitigating measures to address the effects of COVID-19.
- (f) Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(7) authorizes the chief judge “to regulate the use of all court facilities,” which includes the power to issue an administrative order directing the security of court facilities. *See Knight v. Chief Judge of Florida’s Twelfth Judicial Circuit*, 235 So. 3d 996, 999 (Fla. 2d DCA 2017).
- (g) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, and to promote public safety and the security of all court facilities, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

(1) The following persons shall not enter any state courthouse located in Broward County, Florida:

(a) Persons who have been in any of the following countries within the last 14 days:

- i. China
- ii. South Korea
- iii. Japan
- iv. Italy
- v. Iran

(This list may be updated as further guidance is received).

(b) Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

(c) Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has been in one of the countries listed above within the last 14 days.

(d) Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency or department.

(e) Persons who have had exposure to or contact with any individual(s) who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

(2) Broward Sheriff's Office deputies shall deny entry to any person attempting to enter any state courthouse located in Broward County, Florida in violation of this Order, unless such person produces a report from a doctor, hospital, or the Florida Department of Health evidencing they do not pose a risk to spread COVID-19.

(3) Broward Sheriff's Office deputies shall remove any person who has entered any state courthouse in violation of this Administrative Order, unless such person produces a report from a doctor, hospital, or the Florida Department of Health evidencing they do not pose a risk to spread COVID-19.

(4) This Administrative Order applies to the following state courthouse locations in Broward County, Florida:

(a) Broward County Central Courthouse, 201 S.E. 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

- (b) Broward County North Regional Courthouse, 1600 West Hillsboro Boulevard, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442
- (c) Broward County West Regional Courthouse, 100 North Pine Island Road, Plantation, Florida 33324
- (d) Broward County South Regional Courthouse, 3550 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33021

(5) If you have a scheduled appointment or you are otherwise required to appear at one of these courthouse locations, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions listed above:

- (a) If you are represented by an attorney, contact your attorney.
- (b) If you are an attorney or self-represented party, and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, contact the judge's chambers directly (contact information may be found [here](#))
- (c) If you are scheduled to meet with a Broward County Pretrial Services Division officer or Broward County Probation Division officer, contact the appropriate division or officer.
- (d) If you are a juror or grand juror, contact the Broward County Clerk of the Court, Jury Administration, at 954-831-6091.
- (e) For any matter not listed herein, call the Office of the Trial Court Administrator at 954-831-7740.

(6) These restrictions will remain in place until vacated. Individuals who think they have been exposed to COVID-19 or who are experiencing symptoms of the virus should contact their healthcare provider or the Florida Department of Health immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 12th day of March, 2020.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge