



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-00-09
Amendment 1

RE: COVID-19 OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT

WHEREAS, in accordance with Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC 21-17, Amendment 1, judicial circuits are directed to develop an operational plan, as described herein.

WHEREAS the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit will continue to implement the following health and safety precautions to protect the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering courthouses and court facilities.

WHEREAS, pursuant to AOSC 21-17, Amendment 1, the following operational plan is implemented effective August 2, 2021.

WHEREAS, pursuant to AOSC 21-17, Amendment 1, I. C. (1)(a) and (b), a chief judge may determine the necessity for social distancing and the wearing face coverings based on local health conditions.

GENERAL

1. The court places the health and safety of all "justice stakeholders" at the highest priority. Likewise, judges shall lead during this pandemic by comporting themselves in such a manner to increase the public's confidence in court operations.
2. All judges will continue to use reasonable efforts to conduct proceedings remotely, in accord with the law.
3. Judges shall conclude litigation as soon as it is reasonably and justly possible to do so, take charge of all cases at an early stage and to control the progress of the cases thereafter until it is determined, and apply a firm continuance policy allowing continuances only for good cause shown.
4. Judges shall remind members of the Florida Bar that lawyers must strictly comply with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545 (a), and shall conclude litigation as soon as reasonably and justly possible to do, and that the pandemic alone is not a basis for a lawyer's failure to prepare a case for trial or otherwise actively manage a case. Discovery depositions under Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure Rule 3.220, may proceed using remote means or in-person as circumstances dictate.