

**THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. 20-1  
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 20-11**

**IN RE: COVID-19 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES  
AND CONTINUED CLOSURE OF COURTHOUSE  
FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC IN THE  
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**

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**WHEREAS**, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida has issued several administrative orders implementing temporary measures essential to the administration of justice during the COVID-19 pandemic, while mitigating the transmission and effects of COVID-19 on the community; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such measures initially included cancellation of all non-emergency proceedings, and closure of the court facilities to the public, except for mission critical matters; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequently, non-essential hearings that could be effectively conducted remotely through communication equipment without the necessity of in-person court appearances were no longer suspended, and remote court proceedings commenced without the necessity of in-person court appearances; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to AOSC20-23 Amendment 2, the Supreme Court extended its limits on in-person hearings in the Florida State Court System to ensure public health and safety of the lives of Floridians; and

**WHEREAS**, since the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an effect upon the operations of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court and the lives of the residents of Miami-Dade County, it is necessary to extend the temporary closure of the court facilities to the public, unless authorized below, to ensure the health and safety of the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, pursuant to Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of Judicial

Administration, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

1. Public access to court facilities will continue to be permitted for mission critical matters, and by memorandum of the administrative judge in circumstances that are required in the interest of justice. Public access will also be permitted for payment of registry deposits with the clerk of court.
2. All methods to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure must be utilized at all times by individuals involved in in-person proceedings or the general public entering the courthouse. This includes, but is not limited to, wearing face masks, complying with social distancing by staying at least six feet from other people, and undergoing required temperature checks.
3. Except as otherwise provided above, no public access to court facilities will be permitted until further order of this court.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers in Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

**BERTILA SOTO, CHIEF JUDGE  
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**