

FELONY COVID-19 Procedures

Effective July 6, 2020

Virtual Courtrooms in All Circuit Criminal Divisions

Beginning Monday, July 6, 2020, all judges in the Circuit Criminal Division will transition to Virtual Courtrooms via Zoom. Each judge will preside over their own Virtual Courtroom. The Zoom access info for each Virtual Courtroom may be obtained by calling the presiding judge's office – a judicial directory is available [here](#).

"Pods" for Hearings Involving In-Custody Defendants

There will continue to be 3 "Pods," or Virtual Courtrooms connected to the 3 jail facilities for court proceedings involving defendants appearing from jail.

Judges will continue to specially set hearings and pleas in their assigned Pods for defendants who are in custody and need to attend a Virtual Courtroom hearing from the jail. Additionally, every morning there will be one judge on duty for each Pod to cover pleas and other issues that arise during the morning calendar, from divisions assigned to that Pod, that require the presence of the defendant. The Pod duty judge will cover their division calendar first then "move" to the Pod virtual courtroom for matters requiring inmates.

To obtain Zoom access info. for the Pod Virtual Courtrooms, please call 305-548-5721.

To schedule an individual hearing involving an in-custody defendant, please call the judicial assistant of the presiding judge. A judicial directory is available [here](#).

Fingerprinting for Out-of-Custody Defendant Pleas

The Circuit Criminal Division has established COVID-19 procedures for the safe fingerprinting of defendants taking pleas. Scheduling will be done by the judicial assistant of the presiding judge. A judicial directory is available [here](#).