

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA, SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR FLAGLER, PUTNAM, ST. JOHNS AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES**

**RE: SEVENTH AMENDED Emergency Court Procedures
(COVID-19)**

**REF: Z-2021-029
(Rescinds Z-2021-024 & Z-2021-028)**

WHEREAS, the Florida Supreme Court has issued a recent Administrative Order (AOSC21-17) in which courts are permitted to *transition to operation where in-person contact is more broadly authorized*, and

WHEREAS, the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court seeks to gradually increase levels of functionality, and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of the public, litigants, attorneys, court staff, and judges continue to be of paramount concern;

NOW THEREFORE, I, RAUL A. ZAMBRANO, Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, hereby ORDER as follows effective June 21, 2021:

This administrative order is to be read in conjunction with the aforementioned Supreme Court order.

1. Court facility occupants are to continue to monitor their health conditions and may voluntarily choose to wear face masks throughout court facilities.
2. All court facilities in the Seventh Judicial Circuit are open to the media and general public for observance of court proceedings not otherwise deemed closed or confidential.
3. Court facility visitors are encouraged to continue to monitor their health conditions and may voluntarily choose to wear face masks throughout court facilities. Upon request, the Court will provide face masks to anyone attending an in-person court proceeding.
4. Although social distancing requirements are now relaxed, judges and other court facility occupants are to take appropriate measures to ensure that occupancy levels of courtrooms and hearing rooms are not excessive during in-person court proceedings, including, but not limited to, instituting staggered appearance times.
5. Court proceedings described below **must** be conducted in-person:
 - a) Jury trials, grand jury proceedings, and associated jury selections;
 - b) Criminal non-jury trials;
 - c) Termination of Parental Rights trials, Juvenile Dependency trials, and Juvenile Delinquency trials.
 - d) First appearances in Volusia County;
 - e) Weekend/holiday Juvenile detention and Juvenile shelter hearings;
 - f) Marchman Acts;
 - g) Baker Acts;
 - h) Adult Protective Service Acts;
 - i) Requests for waivers of parental consent to abortion;
 - j) Problem-solving court hearings, staffings, and related proceedings;
 - k) Proceedings wherein the services of a sign language interpreter are required;
 - l) Any other proceedings or hearings as directed by the Chief Judge.

6. Court proceedings described below **may** be conducted in-person. Such proceedings may also be conducted remotely if so determined by the presiding judge.
 - a) Non-jury trials in Civil, Family, Juvenile, and Probate/Guardianship cases;
 - b) Evidentiary hearings;
 - c) Arraignments and other pretrial proceedings in Criminal cases;
 - d) First appearances in Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns counties;
 - e) Weekday Juvenile detention and Juvenile shelter hearings;
 - f) Injunctions for protection (including Orders Setting Hearings where temporary injunctions were not issued);
 - g) Adoptions;
 - h) Risk protection orders;
7. Court proceedings described below **must** be conducted by electronic means. Such proceedings may also be conducted in-person if so determined by the presiding judge.
 - a) Non-jury hearings in Civil, Family, Juvenile, and Probate/Guardianship cases not otherwise mentioned herein;
 - b) Courthouse Mediations (or other forms of alternative dispute resolution);
 - c) Non-criminal, civil infractions;
 - d) Proceedings conducted by General Magistrates, Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officers, and Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officers;
 - e) Involuntary commitment of sexually violent predator hearings;
 - f) Appeals;
8. The Court encourages the continued use of electronic means of communication to minimize face-to-face contact among judges, attorneys and, litigants.
 - a) Judges may require attorneys to appear by electronic means for hearings;
 - b) Attorneys appearing by electronic means are to conduct themselves in a professional manner;
 - c) Attorneys appearing by electronic means and all participants are to appear from settings that are free from extraneous noise or interruptions;
 - d) Participants appearing by electronic means are to refrain from engaging in activities that may otherwise detract from the focus of the hearing (i.e. driving a vehicle).
9. As it relates to jury selections referenced in section 5(a) above, all court facilities may be utilized. Juries may be selected throughout the week. No more than two judges are permitted to select juries on any given day. Jury panel sizes may not exceed 25 per session (am / pm).
10. The transportation of inmates housed in county jails to in-person court proceedings as outlined herein is to resume. Volusia County: Due to transportation limits, the movement of inmates to the Daytona Beach S. James Foxman Justice Center and the Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand is limited to a maximum of 40 inmates per transport session respectively. At the Daytona Beach Courthouse Annex, the maximum is 15 inmates per transport session. There are only two transport sessions per day. Judges may still utilize the Volusia County Branch Jail courtroom for inmate sessions if needed.
11. All collateral uses of court facilities such as group tours and mock trials remain postponed until further notice.
12. Visitations of children under the protective supervision of the Department of Children and Families continue to be governed by the terms of the Florida Supreme Court administrative order.

TO BE RECORDED in Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties.

DONE AND ORDERED in Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida this _____ day of June 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raul A. Zambrano', with a date '6/16/2021' and a flourish at the end.

RAUL A. ZAMBRANO
CHIEF JUDGE