

RECENT STATE OF FLORIDA GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Court Proceedings | [Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 20-23 \(Amendment 1\)](#) |

The Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court issued a new executive order on May 4, 2020 that “extends, refines, and strengthens” existing COVID-19 measures enacted by the Court. The order also takes steps to push forward some hearing types that have been determined amenable to be conducted via remote hearings.

The order largely restates measures in place.

- The suspension of limitations on using technology for remote proceedings is extended.
- Oaths can continue to be administered remotely.
- Grand jury proceedings, jury selection, and criminal/civil trials are suspended until July 2.
- Essential court proceedings are to continue as they have been conducted.
- Non-essential court proceedings shall not be conducted in person.
- Speedy trial measures are suspended until July 6; July 2 for First Degree Murder.
- The 20 day time limit for competency hearings is suspended.
- Defendants arrested for warrants of capias from another jurisdiction shall continue to coordinate hearings between jurisdictions to prevent transport.
- Writs of possession requirements remain suspended.
- Some family law forms can still be signed outside the presence of a deputy clerk and in-person visitation requirements remain suspended.

Additionally, some significant changes have been made for non-essential and non-critical court proceedings. The following proceedings shall be conducted to the fullest extent possible through remote technology unless a judge rules that the remote proceeding would be (i) inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution, the Florida Constitution, a statute, or a court rule that has not been suspended; or (ii) lack of technology or resources:

- Alternative dispute resolution;
- Status, case management, and pretrial conferences in all case types;
- Non-evidentiary and evidentiary motion hearings in all case types;
- Arraignments and pleas in absentia in county court misdemeanor cases;
- Hearings in juvenile delinquency cases;
- Hearings in noncriminal traffic infraction cases;
- Problem-solving court staffings, hearings, and wellness checks; and
- Non-jury trials in all case types, except for criminal, juvenile delinquency, and termination of parental rights petitions in dependency cases unless the parties in an excepted case agree to the remote conduct of a non-jury trial.