

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

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**RE: TEMPORARY EMERGENCY COURT PROCEDURES**

**REF: C-2021-042**

**(Modifies Z-2021-029)**

**WHEREAS** the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida has issued an amended Administrative Order *IN RE: COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONAL MEASURES FOR FLORIDA APPELLATE AND TRIAL COURTS* (AOSC 21-17, Amendment 1 (July 29, 2021)) (“AOSC 21-17”), and

**WHEREAS** due to increasing COVID-19 variant cases throughout the nation, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its health guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated persons on July 27, 2021; and

**WHEREAS** AOSC 21-17, Section I.B., provides unless required by federal, state, or local laws, rules, or regulations or unless authorized by Section I.C., a court may not require the wearing of face masks or physical distancing in a courthouse; and

**WHEREAS** AOSC 21-17, Section I.C., provides if warranted by local health conditions a chief judge may require the wearing of face masks and/or physical distancing; and

**WHEREAS** current health conditions within the Seventh Judicial Circuit require the invocation of the exception as provided by AOSC 21-17, Section I.C.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JAMES R. CLAYTON**, Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, hereby order as follows:

1. The provisions and requirements set forth in AOSC 21-17 govern all court proceedings within the Seventh Judicial Circuit.
2. Local Administrative Order Z-2021-029 shall continue to govern all court proceedings within the Seventh Judicial Circuit except as inconsistent with AOSC 21-17 or inconsistent with the modifications set forth herein.
3. During jury selection proceedings, all persons summoned for jury service and all court personnel involved in the proceedings are required to wear face masks.
4. Physical distancing is mandated for all in-person court proceedings.
5. All judges are directed to utilize remote proceedings to the greatest extent feasible and stagger court dockets to limit the numbers of persons present in the courtroom at any one time and to allow for physical distancing.
6. Where physical distancing is not possible during a court proceeding, the wearing of face masks is required.

7. All court facilities in the Seventh Judicial Circuit shall remain open to the media and public; however, where live streaming and or remote access is available, access to courtrooms may be restricted to necessary parties only.
8. Notice setting forth the protocols set forth herein shall be prominently posted on the circuit's website at [www.circuit7.org](http://www.circuit7.org)
9. This order is temporary and shall be evaluated regularly for a determination as to whether local health conditions continue to support the imposition of the exception as provided for in AOSC 21-17, Section I.C.

**TO BE RECORDED** in Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia Counties, Florida.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida this 30 day of July, 2021.



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**JAMES R. CLAYTON**  
**CHIEF JUDGE**