

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2020-21

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR ORANGE AND OSCEOLA
COUNTIES, FLORIDA

**TEMPORARY ORDER REGARDING SUSPENSION OF
TIME PERIODS IN CERTAIN SMALL CLAIMS RULES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the chief judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and the power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Chief Judge's constitutional and statutory responsibility for administrative supervision of the courts within the circuit and considering available resources, to create and maintain an organization capable of effecting the efficient, prompt, and proper administration of justice for the citizens of this State, the Chief Judge is required to exercise direction, *see* Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.215(b)(2), (b)(3); and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and the Florida Department of Health have advised people to take precautions in light of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, and specifically noting the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus through such measures as small gatherings and social distancing; and

WHEREAS, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Ron DeSantis declared a State of Emergency on March 1, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, Orange County declared a Local State of Emergency on March 13, 2020, and Osceola County declared a Local State of Emergency on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-13, In Re: COVID-19 Emergency Procedures in the Florida State Courts, requiring Chief Judges to continue ongoing planning and authorizing the use of mitigating measures to address the effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-23, In Re: Comprehensive COVID-19 Emergency Measures for the Florida State Courts, extending, refining, and strengthening previously enacted temporary remedial measures. The measures remained in effect until the close of business on May 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2020, Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued Amendment 5 to Administrative Order No. AOSC20-23, which extends, refines, and strengthens previously enacted temporary remedial measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald A. Myers, Jr., in order to facilitate the efficient operation of the administration of justice, and pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, hereby order that, **effective immediately**, and to continue until further order:

1. All time periods referenced in Florida Small Claims Rule 7.090(b) that are applicable to the clerk of the court in small claims cases are suspended through October 30, 2020.

2. Parties are encouraged to participate in a telephone or video mediation where possible, to be arranged by the parties directly.

3. This Administrative Order shall be subject to modification, addition, and extension as the evolving and fluid nature of the facts and circumstance may require.

DONE AND ORDERED at Orlando, Florida, this 30th day of July, 2020, *nunc pro tunc* to May 29, 2020

_____/s/_____
Donald A. Myers, Jr.
Chief Judge

Copies provided to:

Clerk of Court, Orange County
Clerk of Court, Osceola County
General E-Mail Distribution List
<http://www.ninthcircuit.org>