

A Message from Judge Elaine A. Barbour:

I hope you and your loved ones are well. Please follow the current [Executive Orders](#) of Governor Ron DeSantis as well as any local government [Executive Orders](#) pertaining to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis:

Unprecedented measures are being taken across our nation to minimize risk and safeguard health. As responsible citizens we must all do our part to help minimize the spread of this virus.

In terms of our Court's day to day operations, in issuing its own [guidelines and orders](#) our Chief Judge Don Myers is responding to the directives of the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, the CDC, Governor DeSantis and other government officials and health organizations. Therefore, measures have been taken to limit operations at courthouses and safeguard our citizens who must travel to the courthouse for essential matters. Please visit the [Ninth Circuit Covid-19 webpage](#) for updates and links to Statewide Emergency Orders.

In terms of the Criminal Trial Division 16, my temporary guidelines and procedures may be found on my [judicial website page](#). "Essential matters" are the following: first appearance, criminal arraignments, as necessary, bond/pretrial release/competency conditional release hearings, in custody plea hearings and extraordinary writs as necessary.

I encourage all lawyers to continue to work on cases remotely. I have full capability to hear non-essential matters via teleconference or videoconference. To schedule and appear, just follow the procedures listed on the link provided at the bottom of my [judicial webpage](#).

Please know your Judges continue to work hard on your behalf each day to do the business of the people while employing safe, innovative and workable solutions for all courtroom participants and staff.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or my judicial assistant, Christine, at [ctjacb2@ocnjcc.org](mailto:ctjacb2@ocnjcc.org) All inquires will be promptly responded to. Please stay safe and healthy. Judge Barbour