

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

*Administrative Order No. 2020-22-Crim*

**SUSPENDING WEEKEND ONLY JAIL SENTENCES  
DURING LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19**

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(a) Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the chief judge shall “develop an administrative plan for the efficient and proper administration of all courts within that circuit.”

(b) The Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-51 on March 1, 2020, establishing a Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) response protocol and directing the State Health Officer and Surgeon General to declare a public health emergency in the State of Florida.

(c) The County Administrator for Broward County, Florida has declared that a Local State of Emergency exists in Broward County due to the threat of COVID-19, and has directed all persons in Broward County to comply with all necessary emergency measures, and to cooperate with public officials and civil emergency/disaster service forces in executing emergency operational plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful direction of all properly identified public officers.

(d) The Sheriff of Broward County, Florida, as the Chief Executive Officer of the Broward County Jail, is responsible for the safety and security of jail staff and inmates.

(e) County-sentenced defendants serving weekend-only jail sentences will have significant contacts with the community while out of custody which may increase the risk of infection to others when returning to custody. Due to close quarters and sealed environment, infection rates within the jail environment can be significantly higher than in the community.

(f) Therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to suspend weekend-only county jail sentences during the local state of emergency related to COVID-19, in

order to provide for the safety and security of inmates in the custody of the Sheriff as well as Department of Detention personnel.

(g) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is here **ORDERED**:

1. That during the declared Local State of Emergency in Broward County, Florida, all weekend-only county jail sentences are suspended.
2. The Sheriff of Broward County shall notify all defendants who are currently serving a county jail sentence not to report to the jail to serve their weekend sentence during the declared Local State of Emergency.
3. Once the Local State of Emergency in Broward County has been lifted, the Sheriff of Broward County will notify all defendants serving a weekend sentence to return on the next full weekend to begin serving any remaining time on such sentence.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 13th day of March, 2020.

/s/ Jack Tuter  
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge