

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

*Administrative Order 2020-93-Gen*

**CASE RESOLUTION AND CASE MANAGEMENT DURING COVID-19**

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(a) 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.

(b) 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 that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus.

(d) Since March 17, 2020, the Florida Supreme Court has issued various emergency administrative orders addressing the judicial branch's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These administrative orders may be found by visiting the following web page: <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Emergency>.

(e) As identified by Chief Justice Canady, the overarching intent of the Supreme Court emergency orders, which this Court has echoed in its corresponding emergency orders as to courthouse operations, has been and continues to be to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 while keeping the courts operating to the fullest extent consistent with public safety.

(f) Consistent with these Supreme Court administrative orders, since March of 2020, the Seventeenth Circuit Judicial Circuit has been utilizing communication equipment and web-based video conferencing tools to conduct court proceedings and continue court operations to the fullest extent feasible.

(g) On November 23, 2020, Chief Justice Canady issued Administrative Order AOSC20-23, Amendment 8, wherein he directs chief judges to direct all judges within their respective circuits to strictly comply with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545(a), (b), and (e), and to communicate to the local Bar that lawyers must strictly comply with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545(a).

(j) Consistent with the mandate from the Chief Justice in AOSC20-23, Amendment 8, regarding case resolution and case management, and in accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, 43.26, Florida Statutes, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

(1) All Seventeenth Circuit and Broward County judges are to strictly comply with the requirements of Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545(a), (b), and (e), which respectively require judges to conclude litigation as soon as it is reasonably and justly possible to do so, to take charge of all cases at an early stage and to actively control the progress of the case thereafter until it is determined, and to apply a firm continuance policy allowing continuances only for good cause shown.

(2) All lawyers practicing in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit and Broward County courts shall strictly comply with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545(a), which requires lawyers to conclude litigation as soon as it is reasonably and justly possible to do so. The pandemic alone is not a basis for a lawyer's failure to prepare a case for trial or otherwise actively manage a case.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 30th day of November, 2020.

/s/ Jack Tuter  
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge