



# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON JURY SERVICE IN FLORIDA

Administrative Orders ([AOSC20-13](#)) and ([AOSC20-17](#)) FAQs | MARCH 24, 2020

### **What are the new Administrative Orders related to jury duty?**

The Florida State Supreme Court issued a series of Administrative Orders outlining guidelines within the state courts system as it confronts Coronavirus (COVID-19), which currently suspend all jury trials in Florida's Court System through April 17, 2020.

Initially, Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued an Administrative Order (AOSC20-13) suspending all jury trials in Florida's Court System for a two-week period.

On March 24, 2020, Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued an additional Administrative Order (AOSC20-17), extending the suspension of all jury trials in Florida's Court System through Friday, April 17, 2020.

Anyone with a summons for jury duty dated between March 16, 2020, and April 17, 2020, is not required to go to court as jury trials during this time have been cancelled. If you are unsure if your summons is impacted by this Order, please call the number provided on the summons or your local Clerk of Court.

### **I have a summons to report for jury duty between March 16, 2020, and April 17, 2020. What should I do?**

Jury summonses for March 16, 2020, through April 17, 2020, were mailed to prospective jurors prior to the Administrative Order. Anyone with a summons for jury duty between March 16, 2020, and April 17, 2020, are not required to go to court as jury trials during this time have been cancelled. However, if you are unsure if your summons is impacted, please call the number provided on the summons or your local Clerk of Court.

### **I received a summons in the mail. I thought all jury trials were cancelled.**

Anyone with a summons for jury duty dated between March 16, 2020, and April 17, 2020, is not required to go to court as jury trials during this time have been cancelled.

Florida's Clerks will continue to mail out summons forms between March 16 and April 17, to avoid delay to future court processes once the suspension of all jury trials is lifted. If you receive a summons, Florida's Clerks recommend calling the number printed on the summons to confirm whether you are required to appear.

**I have questions about whether I am required to report to the courthouse.**

Florida's Clerks recommend calling the number printed on the summons to confirm whether you are required to appear.

Prospective jurors are also urged to check the local Clerk of Court website and social media sites for additional updates and to determine whether to report for jury service.

**Are Florida's Clerks offices still open?**

Local Clerk of Courts and Comptrollers' offices around the state are currently open to serve the public.

Due to the recent concerns with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the recommendation for social distancing, many Clerk services, including payments, can be accomplished on the phone and online. Contact your local Clerk of Court for more information or to access online services.

**What is being done to protect citizens and staff?**

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to impact public spaces, Clerk of Courts and Comptrollers' offices remain committed to vigorous cleaning protocols that comply with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, as well as maintaining close contact with local health authorities as the situation continues to evolve.

**What is the best way to access Florida Clerk services during this time?**

Local Clerk of Courts and Comptrollers' offices around the state are currently open to serve the public. Additionally, many Clerk services can be accomplished on the phone and online. Contact your local Clerk of Court for more information or to access online services.

**Does the suspension also include court hearings or appearances?**

All courts shall continue to perform essential court proceedings and, as necessary and applicable, critical proceedings related to the state of emergency. The best thing to do is contact your county's Clerk of Court for more information.