

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: S-2020-14

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COURT CLOSURE
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the Chief Judge “shall, considering available resources, ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within this circuit,” and;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 Chief Justice Charles Canady issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-12, *In Re: Response of the Florida State Courts System to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*, requiring Chief Judges to continue ongoing planning and authorizing the use of mitigating measures to address the effects of COVID-19, and;

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the undersigned issued Administrative Order Regarding Court Closure Due to COVID-19 Pandemic wherein courts of the Fifth Judicial Circuit were closed with the exception of the following hearings: First Appearance Hearings, Shelter Hearings, Baker Act Hearings, Marchman Act Hearings, Emergency Guardianship Hearings, Risk Protection Order Hearings, Juvenile Detention Hearings, Initial Domestic Violence Injunction Hearings and any other matter that is determined to be related to the immediate and imminent health, welfare, and safety of an individual or the general public.

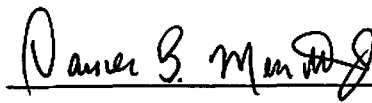
WHEREAS, the closure will cause the cancelation and continuance of hearings and trials not listed above.

DBAJS

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that:

The Sumter County Clerk of Court is directed to reschedule all matters canceled or continued due to the closure of the court in accordance with A-2020-12 to a date not less than sixty (60) days from date of this order or as may be otherwise requested by any of the assigned judges of Sumter County, Florida.

DONE AND ORDERED, in chambers at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida this 17th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

The Honorable Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit