

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR CLAY, DUVAL, AND NASSAU COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-16**

**IN RE: COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONAL MEASURES FOR THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**WHEREAS**, on July 29, 2021, the Supreme Court of Florida entered Administrative Order No. AOSC21-17, *Amendment 1*, to modify and extend previously enacted temporary health and safety protocols and emergency operational measures relating to COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, Administrative Order No. AOSC21-17, *Amendment 1*, authorizes the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit to determine to what extent certain health and safety protocols should be implemented in that circuit;

**WHEREAS**, local health conditions were such that the Fourth Judicial Circuit's Administrative Order No. 2021-16 was entered to require anyone entering the courthouses in Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties to wear a face mask in all public areas and in all courtrooms, unless the presiding judge in his or her discretion allowed individuals not to wear a face mask in the interest of justice during courtroom proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, local health conditions in Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties have significantly improved with increasing vaccination rates and a decreasing number of new cases since Administrative Order No. 2021-16 was issued; and

**WHEREAS**, nothing in this Order or previous Orders limits the inherent authority of a presiding judge to control the conduct of court proceedings.

**NOW THEREFORE**, by the administrative authority vested in me as the Chief Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit and pursuant to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is

**ORDERED** that:

- (1) Effective October 11, 2021, unless required by federal; state; or local laws, rules, or regulations, face masks are no longer required in the Clay, Duval, and Nassau County Courthouses; however, anyone entering these courthouses has the option to wear a face mask.
- (2) Those entering the Clay, Duval, and Nassau County Courthouses may request to be physical distanced. The court will address such requests as appropriate under the circumstances at the time of the request.

- (3) The Court will continue to closely monitor local health conditions and will update this policy as necessary.
- (4) This Amended Administrative Order No. 2021-16 shall be recorded by the Clerk of the Court, in the Official Records of Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties, in the State of Florida, and shall take effect on October 11, 2021, and remain in full force and effect unless and until otherwise ordered by the Court.

**DONE** at Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

  
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**MARK H. MAHON**  
**CHIEF JUDGE**

cc: All Judges in the Fourth Judicial Circuit  
The Honorable James Daniel, Administrative Judge, Nassau County  
The Honorable Don H. Lester, Administrative Judge, Clay County  
All Magistrates and Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officers  
The Honorable Jody Phillips, Clerk of the Courts, Duval County  
The Honorable John A. Crawford, Clerk of the Courts, Nassau County  
The Honorable Tara S. Green, Clerk of the Courts, Clay County  
The Honorable Charles G. Cofer, Esq., Public Defender  
The Honorable Melissa Nelson, Esq., State Attorney  
The Honorable Jason R. Teal, Esq., Acting General Counsel, Jacksonville, Florida  
The Honorable Mike Williams, Sheriff, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
The Honorable Michelle Cook, Sheriff, Clay County Sheriff's Office  
The Honorable Bill Leeper, Sheriff, Nassau County Sheriff's Office  
Major Claude Colvin, Jacksonville, Sheriff's Office, Courthouse Security  
Cecilia F. Birk, Esq., Court Counsel  
Eve Janocko, Acting Trial Court Administrator  
Mike Smith, Chief Technology Officer  
Jim Kowalski, Esq., Executive Director JALA  
James Gardner, Director of Alternative Dispute Resolutions  
Charles E. Bishop, Family Court Manager, Fourth Circuit  
Stephen Siegel, Esq., Office of the State Attorney  
Judicial Staff Attorneys, Fourth Judicial Circuit  
Fourth Circuit Court Law Library, Duval County  
The Jacksonville Bar Association  
Clay County Bar Association  
Nassau County Bar Association