



BRENDA D. FORMAN
CLERK OF CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURT
17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROWARD CLERK OF COURTS

Public Health Emergency COVID-19 - Update

[Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 14, 2020]

With COVID-19 dominating the news, please know I remain committed to the safety and well-being of my employees and our residents, especially those of our most vulnerable populations. During this unprecedented public health emergency, balancing public safety with continuing to provide services to our community remains a top priority.

Pursuant to Administrative Order 2020-32-Temp, "The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Continuity of Operations Plan is activated." Accordingly, the Broward County Clerk of Courts suspended in-person, non-essential services consistent with the 17th Judicial Circuit's Administrative Order to prevent the spread of coronavirus COVID-19. While the date is subject to change, normal court operations are currently scheduled to resume on June 1, 2020.

However, essential Clerk employees are still working to support the residents of Broward County and the 17th Judicial Circuit mission critical events and proceedings, by processing filings for essential services as defined in the court's administrative order. These services include:

1. First appearance hearings
2. Criminal arraignments, when necessary
3. Hearings on motions to set or modify monetary bail for individuals who are in custody
4. Juvenile detention hearings
5. Juvenile dependency shelter hearings
6. Petitions for judicial waiver of notice pursuant to section 394.01114, Florida Statutes
7. Hearings on petitions for the appointment of emergency temporary guardian
8. Risk protection orders and hearings
9. In-person service for the filing of injunctions for protection against domestic violence, stalking, repeat violence, dating violence, and sexual violence, and hearings is available.
10. Injunctions for protection against exploitation of a vulnerable adult
11. In-person service for the filing of Baker Act and Marchman Act proceedings is available.

12. Extraordinary writs, related to the state of emergency or public health emergency or otherwise necessary to protect constitutional rights.
13. Issuance of warrants or authorization for wiretaps
14. Proceedings related to the state of emergency or public health emergency, including but not limited to violation of quarantine or isolation orders, violation of orders to limit travel, violation of orders to close public or private buildings, enforcement of curfew orders, habeas corpus petitions, and mandatory vaccinations.
15. Any other emergency or time sensitive matter as determined by the chief judge.

I know times are tough and I recognize the financial impact the COVID-19 emergency is having on hardworking Floridians. If you've been financially affected by recent events and owe traffic tickets or other court-ordered financial obligations, contact my office to learn how we can work with you to set up a reasonable payment plan that best fits your circumstances.

Additionally, many of the services we provide in our offices are also still available online. Visit www.browardclerk.org to learn how you can:

- Pay a traffic ticket online;
- Order certified copies online;
- Request an extension for payment of fines;
- File court documents electronically; and,
- Postpone your jury service.

I am working with our collection vendors to offer reduced collection fees for those wishing to make a payment or work out a payment plan. This special arrangement, once finalized, will be available until 5/29/20.

During difficult times like these, it's important to reflect on what matters most to you. I sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are not affected by COVID-19 and remain safe, healthy, and stable during this emergency.



Brenda D. Forman

Broward County Clerk of Courts