



Supreme Court of Florida

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Florida's Chief Justice issues new & amended pandemic administrative orders governing state court operations

TALLAHASSEE – Chief Justice Charles Canady issued two new and two amended administrative orders late on November 23, 2020, addressing court operations during the pandemic. They extend the term of the court [COVID-19 Workgroup](#) to July 2, 2021, and update [requirements, benchmarks, and guidelines for the four phases](#) of a return to normal statewide court operations as a vaccine is deployed.

The new orders are [AOSC20-109](#) on appellate courts and [AOSC20-110](#) on the Workgroup's term. The amended orders are [AOSC20-23](#) on trial courts and [AOSC20-32](#) on updates to the four phases. Previously, a single order governed both appellate and trial courts, but the two have been separated now for clarity.

The four phases were established in [prior orders](#) issued since the state courts began pandemic operations in March. All are based on recommendations of the Workgroup and general public health guidelines.

The Workgroup's mission is to find ways for courts to operate as fully as possible during each phase of the pandemic, leading to an eventual return to normal operations. The Workgroup is chaired by Circuit Judge Lisa Taylor Munyon from the Orlando area.

Florida's courts have been operating under emergency procedures since a [March 13, 2020](#), order in which Canady suspended jury trials and took other actions restricting potential disease-spreading activities in the state courts. Limited jury trials have resumed in parts of the state using health precautions.

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