

MEDIA ADVISORY



11th Judicial Circuit of Florida

For Immediate Release

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COVID-19 ADVISORY #86

MIAMI-DADE COURTS TO TERMINATE PHASE 2 COVID-19 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS EFFECTIVE JUNE 21, 2021, WITH COURTHOUSES REOPENING TO THE PUBLIC EFFECTIVE JUNE 28, 2021

The Honorable Bertila Soto, Chief Judge of the Miami-Dade Courts, has issued Administrative Order 21-11, terminating Phase 2 COVID-19 Emergency Court Operations effective June 21, 2021, and reopening to the public all court facilities effective June 28, 2021.

New court operations outlined in AO 21-11 are enacted under recent guidance from the CDC and the Florida Supreme Court [AOSC21-17](#). The following is an overview of key operational changes, but all those involved in court proceedings are encouraged to carefully review AO 21-11 in its entirety. The full text of AO 21-11 is downloadable below.

1. **Effective June 21st, masks** are no longer required, however:
 - a) Masks may still be worn
 - b) Masks are strongly encouraged for those who are not vaccinated
 - c) Masks will be provided to court participants upon request.
2. **Effective June 21st, physical distancing** is no longer required; however, physical distancing may be accommodated upon request for in-court proceedings, at the court's discretion.
3. **Effective June 28th, all court buildings will be open to the public. Judges and court staff will be working from their assigned courthouse locations.**

Any court public areas previously closed during COVID-19 emergency operations will be open to the public effective June 28th.

4. **Zoom hearings will continue for certain court proceedings, and in-person court proceedings will be expanded as detailed below:**

- a) Court proceedings already scheduled for Zoom will remain on Zoom, unless changed by the presiding judge
- b) If a court proceeding has been scheduled for Zoom, appearance by Zoom is required
- c) If a court proceeding has been scheduled for in-person appearance, in-person attendance is required at the location specified on the Notice of Hearing
- d) The Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department shall not bring to court any inmate with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis, or who is in quarantine due to COVID-19.

Division-specific court proceeding operations are listed in **Appendix A-J of AO 21-11**, which detail what types of proceedings will continue to be available on Zoom, and which proceedings will resume in-person.

Individuals with existing appointments for court services such as Drive Legal, Family Court Services and Mediation should follow the instructions listed on their Court Order or appointment notice. Instructions for future appointments will be provided accordingly. A full listing of court services and contact information is listed [here](#).

Online court services such as [Online Case Resolution](#) and SOPHIA for the [Family Court Self Help Program](#) will continue.

The full text of Administrative Order 21-11 is downloadable from the link below.

The full text of Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order [AOSC21-17](#) is downloadable from the link below.

Please visit our website www.jud11.flcourts.org and social media @miamidadecourts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for future updates.

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