

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.: 12.511 -04/2020.2*

IN RE: RESTRICTING CERTAIN VISITORS TO THE COURTHOUSES

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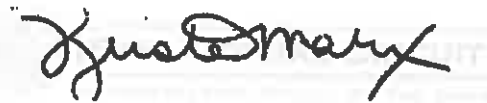
In response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Governor of Florida has declared a state of emergency exists and the Surgeon General and State Health Officer have declared that a public health emergency exists. As directed by the Florida Supreme in numerous Administrative Orders, all chief judges of the district and circuit courts must take any mitigating measures as may be necessary to address the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak in their respective courts. Further, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(7) gives the Chief Judge the authority to “regulate the use of all court facilities,” including the security of court facilities. *Knight v. Chief Judge of Florida’s Twelfth Judicial Circuit*, 235 So. 3d 996, 999 (Fla. 2d DCA 2017).

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215 it is **ORDERED** as follows

1. Effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter any county or circuit courthouse located in Palm Beach County, Florida:
 - a. **Persons who have been in any foreign country within the last 14 days.**
 - b. **Persons who have been in the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, or Louisiana within the last 14 days.**
 - c. **Persons who reside with or who have had close contact with someone who has been in any foreign country or the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, or Louisiana within the last 14 days;**
 - d. **Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;**
 - e. **Persons who have been diagnosed with or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.**
 - f. **Persons with a body temperature of 100.4 °F or higher.**
2. **Persons entering any courthouse subject to this Order will be subject to a COVID-19 screening, including a temperature scan and limited inquiries regarding virus exposure.**

3. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office deputies shall refuse entry to any person who **refuses screening** or attempts to enter a courthouse in violation of this Order. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office deputies shall remove any person who has entered a courthouse in violation of this Order.
4. If you have a scheduled appointment or are otherwise required to appear at a courthouse but cannot do so because of the restrictions listed above, you should proceed as follows:
 - a. If you are represented by an attorney, contact your attorney;
 - b. If you are an attorney or a self-represented party and are scheduled to appear before a judge or magistrate, contact the judge or magistrate's chambers directly;
 - c. If you are a witness or victim, contact the appropriate agency or party that has been in touch with you about the matter you are scheduled to appear in;
 - d. If you are a juror or grand juror, contact the Palm Beach County Clerk of Court's Jury Office at (561) 355-2930 or 1-888-780-5032 ;
 - e. If you have a traffic matter, Contact the Clerk of Court at (561) 355-2994.
 - f. For any matter not listed herein, call Court Administration at (561) 355-1872.
5. These restrictions will remain in place until vacated.

DONE and ORDERED in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this 6th day of April, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Marx". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, there is a faint, rectangular stamp or watermark that is partially obscured by the ink.

Krista Marx, Chief Judge

*Supersedes and amends AO 12.511-03/2020