

**IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
IN AND FOR DESOTO, MANATEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-13a.01
(amends 2020-13.01)**

**RE: ORDER SUSPENDING CIVIL JURY TRIALS
THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020**

WHEREAS, the Florida State Courts System has proactively addressed the effects on court operations of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), a severe acute respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and well-being of courthouse visitors, court employees, and judicial officers are a high priority and we must continue to take steps to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the courts, its participants and the general public; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to AOSC20-32 and the Workgroup report titled *Requirements, Benchmarks, and Guidelines Governing the Transition to Limited In-Person Contact (Phase 2)*, certain requirements were established to protect public health and safety while fulfilling the court system's responsibilities for the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, AOSC20-13 initially suspended criminal and civil jury trials during the period of March 16, 2020 through March 27, 2020, and AOSC20-23, as amended several times, extended the suspension of jury trials through July 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2020, this court entered Administrative Order 2020-13.01 which suspended civil jury trials in this circuit through September 18, 2020; and

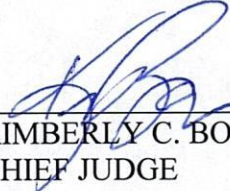
WHEREAS, based on the requirements, benchmarks and guidelines established by the Florida Supreme Court, it is apparent that the 12th Judicial Circuit will not be in a position to effectively resume civil jury trials on September 18, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to provide for continued court operations during this emergency, and in accordance with Article V, section 7, Florida Constitution, Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, **IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:**

1. All civil jury trials in the 12th Judicial Circuit are hereby suspended through December 31, 2020.
2. This date may be extended by further order of the Florida Supreme Court, this court, or both.

3. This order is effective immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida, this 29
day of June, 2020.



KIMBERLY C. BONNER
CHIEF JUDGE

Original to Sarasota County Clerk of Court
Copies to: Manatee County Clerk of Court
Desoto County Clerk of Court
All Judges and court employees
All 12th Circuit Sheriffs
All 12th Circuit Court Employees
All 12th Circuit Bar Associations