

Press Release re: Tenth Judicial Circuit from Chief Judge Ellen Masters

In Administrative Order 1-53.0, I responded to the public health emergency by suspending court proceedings other than those deemed to be essential court proceedings and critical proceedings. Accordingly, the courts of the Tenth Judicial Circuit will be rescheduling, postponing or cancelling hearings as well as establishing means to conduct other nonessential and noncritical hearings by telephone or video. Essential court proceedings and critical court proceedings have been defined by the Florida Supreme Court and are listed in this court's administrative order, A.O. 1-53.0.

There are no proceedings occurring in the branch courthouses in Winter Haven and Lakeland that meet the definition of an essential or critical proceeding as defined by the Florida Supreme Court during the public health emergency. Therefore, until further notice, the court proceedings in the branch courthouses in Winter Haven and Lakeland have been suspended.

The court may also schedule non-emergency matters for hearing by telephone or video upon the request of a party during the time that we are closed to the public. Otherwise, matters will be reset after the public health emergency concludes.

We regret any inconvenience to you and are hopeful that our efforts will assist in protecting our communities during this emergency.