

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC22-51

IN RE: TERMINATION OF SPECIFIED COVID-19 EMERGENCY
 OPERATIONAL MEASURES TO ACCOUNT FOR NEW
 RULES ON REMOTE CONDUCT OF COURT
 PROCEEDINGS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

To mitigate the effects of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on the judicial branch and its participants, then Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued administrative orders implementing temporary measures essential to the administration of justice to address the pandemic and to keep the courts operating to the fullest extent consistent with public safety. One of those administrative orders is *In re: COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols and Emergency Operational Measures for Florida Appellate and Trial Courts*, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC21-17, Amendment 3 (Jan. 8, 2022). Among other provisions, the administrative order addresses the remote conduct of court proceedings and court-related activities through the use of technology.

The Supreme Court on July 14, 2022, adopted amendments to multiple rules of procedure and Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Forms, which amendments provide permanent and broader authorization for the remote conduct of certain court proceedings.¹ The Court's action followed the filing of rules petitions by the Workgroup on the Continuity of Court Operations and Proceedings During and After COVID-19 and the Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court, which determined that permanent, broader authorization for remote proceedings was warranted based on the positive outcomes and efficiencies observed during the pandemic. The rule amendments became effective at 12:01 a.m. on October 1, 2022.

In light of the Court's adoption of comprehensive rules governing remote conduct of proceedings, the following provisions of

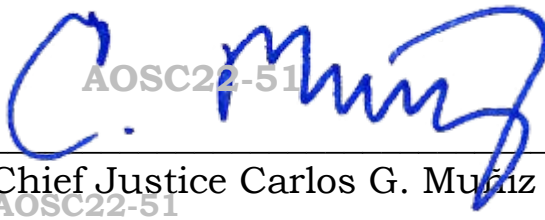
1. *In re: Amendments to Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, Florida Probate Rules, Florida Rules of Traffic Court, Florida Small Claims Rules, and Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure*, 47 Fla. L. Weekly S187 (Fla. July 14, 2022), and *In re: Amendments to Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, and Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Forms*, 47 Fla. L. Weekly S188 (Fla. July 14, 2022).

AOSC21-17, Amendment 3, addressing, directly or indirectly, remote proceedings shall terminate, effective immediately:

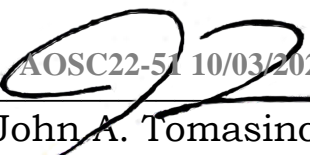
- 1) Section II.A., “Use of Technology”;
- 2) Section II.B., “Administration of Oaths”;
- 3) Section II.D., “Appellate Court Proceedings”;
- 4) Section II.E.(1), “Juror Disqualifications, Excusals, and Postponements”;
- 5) Section II.E.(2), “Jury and Other Proceedings”;
- 6) Section II.E.(3), “Remote Civil and Criminal Jury Selection Proceedings and Trial Proceedings”;
- 7) Section II.E.(4), “Other Trial Court Proceedings”; and
- 8) Section II.E.(5), “In-Person Trial Court Proceedings.”

The repeal of these provisions is not intended to affect lawful actions taken under the authority of the provisions while they were in effect. In addition, a proceeding properly scheduled under the authority of these provisions for remote conduct before termination of the provisions for a date occurring after termination may continue to be conducted remotely.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on October 3,
2022.


Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñoz

ATTEST:


John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

AOSC22-51 10/03/2022

