




JAN SHACKELFORD
CIRCUIT JUDGE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the State Courts Administrator

FROM: Jan Shackelford, Acting Chief Judge, First Judicial Circuit 

DATE: January 14, 2021

RE: Temporary Operations Change

I write to advise that effective Tuesday, January 19, 2021, the First Judicial Circuit will limit operations in all four counties comprising the First Judicial Circuit as outlined below. Other than the difference in court proceedings allowed, our operational plan will remain unaltered, as we remain in Phase 2. The modifications are necessitated by the substantial recent increases in positivity rates and the number of new cases of COVID-19 in the First Judicial Circuit. We will continue to diligently monitor the relevant local data on a weekly basis, adjust where necessary, and apprise OSCA of any further changes as soon as possible.

By county, the following changes will be implemented:

Escambia County

Jury trials are suspended for the weeks of January 18 and January 25, 2021.

Santa Rosa County

For the week of January 18, 2021, in-person VOP and sentencing hearings are cancelled. TPR trials, county court arraignments and pretrials, county court plea day, and circuit court docket days may proceed in person with all relevant safety protocols observed. All other in-person criminal proceedings on January 21-22 are cancelled. No jury selection was scheduled for the week.

Okaloosa County

Through January 22, 2021, jury trials are suspended. Only those matters deemed essential and certain other limited matters may be conducted in person.

Walton County

Jury trials are suspended for the weeks of January 18 and January 25, 2021. All civil and routine family law proceedings will be conducted remotely through January 29, 2021. Emergency family law matters may be conducted in person.