

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

**IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS  
UNDER THE EXIGENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
CREATED BY COVID-19**

**Case No. 4:95mc40111**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has recently warned of the evolving threat represented by the outbreak and spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States. Last week, the World Health Organization labelled COVID-19 a global pandemic and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a public health emergency throughout the state. According to these and other public health experts, social distancing measures are the most effective way to combat the rapid spread of COVID-19 and prevent illness.

In consideration of the serious health crisis facing the nation and the State of Florida from the virus and to maintain the orderly administration of justice, until further notice, the Court finds that effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020, all Court locations in the Northern District of Florida will be closed to the public, with the exception of those who are required to attend Court hearings, trials, or other

matters before the Court requiring in-person attendance. Staff in the Clerk's Office will remain available by telephone, but the public intake counter will not be accessible to the public. Those without access to the Court's electronic filing system must submit non-emergency filings by mail. If an individual needs to file an emergency filing in paper, filers must contact the Clerk's Office to notify the Court and make arrangements to submit the filing.

**DONE AND ORDERED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

**s/ Mark E. Walker**  
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**Chief United States District Judge**