

For Immediate Release

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Hurricane Ian Notice for 20th Judicial Circuit

Jury Trial Suspension Dates and Rescheduling Hearings, Court Events or Appointments

Hurricane Ian caused courthouse closures throughout the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, which includes Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades Counties. To ensure the safety of our citizens and employees, each courthouse was closed commencing, **Tuesday, September 27, 2022**. Courthouses in Hendry County, Collier County, and Glades County re-opened for business on Thursday, October 6, 2022. Lee County re-opened for business on Monday, October 10, 2022. Charlotte County plans to re-open on Monday, October 17, 2022.

Due to the impact sustained from Hurricane Ian upon court and facilities operations, jury trials will be suspended in Lee County for 30 days starting October 10, 2022, in Collier County for 14 days starting October 10, 2022 and, in Charlotte County for 30 days starting October 17, 2022. Therefore, all time limits involving the speedy trial procedure, in criminal and juvenile court proceedings, are suspended from the close of business on Friday, September 23, 2022, until the close of business on Monday, October 24, 2022, for Collier County, until the close of business on Thursday, November 17, 2022, for Charlotte County and until the close of business on Thursday, November 10, 2022, for Lee County.

The Florida Supreme Court issued Administrative Orders extending all critical time periods and time limits affected by the closures for each county. A copy of the Florida Supreme Court Administrative Orders can be viewed on the Florida Supreme Court website at: <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Practice-Procedures/Administrative-Orders>

If you missed a hearing, trial, court event, or appointment scheduled on the date the respective court was closed you will not be penalized. Our Judges' Offices and court staff, in conjunction with the Clerks of Court, are working hard to ensure that, in appropriate circumstances, hearings, trials, and court events are rescheduled in a timely fashion and that notices of new court dates are mailed or e-mailed to counsel of record and self-represented parties.

If you have not received notice of a rescheduled hearing, trial, or court event, please first contact your attorney. If you are an attorney or if you are self-represented, and if you previously scheduled a hearing using the Court's online scheduling system (JACS), please reschedule your hearing through that same online scheduling system (JACS). If you did not previously schedule your hearing using the Court's online scheduling system (JACS), please contact the appropriate Judge's Office, Clerk's Office, or Case Management Office for rescheduling information.

If you are on pre-trial supervision or county probation and missed a mandatory appointment with a county pre-trial officer or county probation officer during the dates the court was closed in the respective county and you have not been contacted to reschedule your appointment, please contact your assigned county pre-trial officer or county probation officer.