



**DONALD H. MASON**  
CIRCUIT JUDGE  
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

CHARLOTTE COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER  
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Dear Juror,

The safety of our citizens and staff is our highest priority. Due to these unprecedented times your Jury service experience at the Charlotte County Justice Center has been changed dramatically due to our response to COVID-19. It is imperative that you review this document, the links provided, and your jury summons, closely to ensure a safe and efficient service during your visit.

Due to COVID-19, all jury trial activities were previously suspend for the past four months. The Supreme Court has now authorized resumption of jury trials effective immediately.

As you know the right to a jury trial is an essential function to protect the rights and liberties afforded to each person as directed by the constitution. Florida's constitution (Article I, section 22) guarantees that any person accused of committing a crime has the right to a jury trial. In most civil actions, a jury trial is also an established right. In order for individuals to exercise this right, the court must maintain a system of providing jurors for trials. For many jurors, service on a jury is an important opportunity to fully participate in the responsibilities of citizenship. The U.S. Supreme Court noted that "for most citizens, the honor and privilege of jury duty is their most significant opportunity to participate in the democratic process." Powers v. Ohio, 111 S.Ct. 13

We are taking the following steps to protect you during this time and to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Anyone entering the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit courthouses are required to wear face masks or appropriate face coverings at all times throughout the buildings, including courtrooms, as mandated by the Florida Supreme Court. There are no exceptions. Anyone without a face mask will be provided with one at no cost. All persons entering are also subject to a health and safety screening. This includes a temperature scan and limited inquiries regarding potential respiratory illness. People with a fever above 100.4 degrees or who answers yes to the screening questions will not be allowed to enter the courthouse. The following questions will be asked of anyone entering the Charlotte County Justice Center.

The screening shall include the following questions:

- Question 1: Do you have any of the following symptoms (excluding those due to a known medical reason): Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell fatigue, body aches, headache, congestion or runny nose nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.
- Question 2: Are you currently awaiting the results of a test to determine if you have COVID-19?

- Question 3: Are you under instructions to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19?
- Question 4: Have you had close contact with someone with a COVID-19 diagnosis or who is awaiting test results for COVID-19?
- Question 5: Have you travelled to an area with a notably high concentration of COVID-19 cases?

In addition to masks and entrance screening requirements we have also instituted the following best practices for your safety.

1. We have increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting in all court facilities. Deep Cleaning is occurring daily. Along with additional cleaning and wiping down frequently touched surfaces in our lobbies, security checkpoints, courtrooms, and other public areas throughout the day.
2. Hand sanitizer stations have been installed for use throughout the courthouses to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. It is also readily available in courtrooms and other public spaces.
3. Queuing area has been established both outside and inside of the Justice Center with well-defined social distancing markings.
4. Decals have also been placed throughout the courthouses to maintain social distancing. Elevator capacity is also limited.
5. The galleries of all courtrooms have been measured and the seating has been marked to maintain the required six feet distance.
6. The only people allowed in courtrooms will be limited to those essential to the proceedings.

For more information please review the below Covid19 links found at:

<https://charlotteclerk.com/>  
[Ca.cjis20.org](https://ca.cjis20.org)



Thank you for your service.