

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 16TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF
FLORIDA IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER**

IN RE:

ORDER SUSPENDING COURT
OPERATIONS DUE TO THREAT
OF TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE
CONDITIONS

_____:

WHEREAS, Monroe County declared a State of Local Emergency at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2020 due to the approach of Tropical Storm Laura; and

WHEREAS, conditions along the Overseas Highway will deteriorate rapidly, not allowing for safe travel for judges, staff and litigants to and from the three Monroe County Courthouses; it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the operations of the courts of Monroe County and the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit shall be suspended beginning Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 6 p.m. Court operations will resume Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., if weather conditions permit.

Provided FURTHER, that such suspension of court operations at 6 p.m. Sunday, August 23, 2020, shall include the suspension of the following activities:

1. Juvenile detention hearings;
2. Dependency shelter hearings;
3. Issuance of domestic violence restraining orders;
4. Issuance of repeat violence restraining orders;
5. Marchman Act involuntary commitments;

HOWEVER, the following court related functions will continue:

1. First Appearance hearings will be held Monday, August 24, 2020, at the Plantation Key Courthouse for all three court locations at 9:00 a.m., if conditions permit.
2. Law enforcement officers seeking search warrant and arrest warrant review by the duty judge shall follow night and weekend procedures by contacting Monroe County Sheriff's Office dispatch.
3. Law Enforcement shall continue Baker Act involuntary detoxification procedures.

4. Individuals advising authorities that they are in need of domestic violence restraining orders shall be assisted in receiving shelter and protection at any hurricane shelter that may be available and advised to seek restraining orders when normal court activities resume.
5. Juveniles arrested for any detainable offense shall be released to their parents or responsible adult with a notice to appear and for this purpose law enforcement shall have the right to detain said juvenile beyond 6 hours, if necessary.
6. Children taken into custody by the Florida Department of Children and Family Services shall remain with the Department without court order until regular court operations resume.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING COURT REOPENING

7. Information concerning the resumption of court operations in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit can be found on the Court's website at www.keyscourts.net or by calling the emergency hotline at (305) 295-3644.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Key West, Monroe County, Florida, this 21ST day of August, 2020.



Honorable Mark H. Jones
Chief Judge

cc: Clerk of Court
DCF
DJJ
Office of the Public Defender
Office of the State Attorney
Office of Regional Counsel
Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Key West Police Department