

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup>  
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 CONDITIONS

\_\_\_\_\_:

WHEREAS, Monroe County Mayor Holly Merrill Raschein declared a State of Local Emergency for Monroe County on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, due to the approach of Tropical Storm Rafael; and

WHEREAS, a Tropical Storm warning exists for all of Monroe County and the Florida Keys and 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 Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 5 p.m. Court operations will resume Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., if weather conditions permit.


HOWEVER, the following court related functions **will** continue:

1. Juvenile detention hearings;
2. Dependency shelter hearings;
3. Issuance of domestic violence restraining orders;
4. Marchman Act involuntary commitments;
5. First Appearance hearings will be held Wednesday, November 6, 2024, from the Monroe County Detention Center on Stock Island at 9:00 am for all three court locations, if conditions permit.
6. 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.
7. Law Enforcement shall continue Baker Act involuntary detoxification procedures.

**QUESTIONS CONCERNING COURT REOPENING**

8. Information concerning the resumption of court operations in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit can be found on the Court's website at [www.keyscourts.net](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

  
Honorable Bonnie J. Helms  
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  
Monroe County Bar Association