

**FILED**

DEC 10 2021

IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

LEE CO., FLORIDA

CLERK OF COURTS

BY \_\_\_\_\_ D.C.

IN RE: COVID-19 COURT PROTOCOL FOR  
JAIL INMATES IN QUARANTINE

ADMINISTRATIVE  
NO. 2.42

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created special challenges for Sheriffs of counties within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit who are responsible for housing persons arrested and booked into local jails, while at the same time taking all measures to protect the health and safety of those persons arrested as well as jail staff, officers, and others; and

WHEREAS, the Courts within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit have a common interest in maintaining the health and safety of court staff, court participants, and members of the public;

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Chief Judge pursuant to Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.215(b), it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. It shall be within the discretion of the Sheriffs of counties within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit to refrain from transporting to any courthouse or courtroom any inmates who are in quarantine based upon COVID-19 reasons.

2. If an inmate scheduled to appear in-person in court is in quarantine, the Sheriff's Office shall notify the Court, the Office of the State Attorney, and defense counsel (or counsel of record if the case for which the inmate is scheduled to appear is non-criminal) with as much advance notice as possible of any decision to not transport that inmate due to quarantine. Any such court appearances shall be continued by the presiding judge until the inmate is no longer in quarantine. If alternate arrangements can safely be made by the Sheriff's Office for a remote appearance of the inmate, and if the court event is not one requiring the mandatory in-person presence of the inmate, the Court may, in its discretion, allow the inmate to appear remotely.

I hereby certify this document to  
be a true and correct copy of the  
record on file in my office  
Linda Doggett, Clerk of Circuit/  
County Court, Lee County, FL  
Dated: 12/10/2021

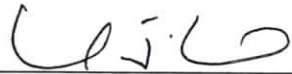
By A. [Signature]  
Deputy Clerk



3. This Administrative Order is to remain in effect until such time as it is no longer relevant, meaning that there are no further inmates quarantined based upon COVID-19 reasons, or until otherwise revised, amended or vacated.

4. This Administrative Order is effective immediately.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in chambers in Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, this 10<sup>th</sup>  
day of Dec., 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael T. McHugh  
Chief Judge

History. – New.

