

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

No. AODOAH20-01

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, in response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Governor of the State of Florida has declared a state of emergency exists, and the Surgeon General and State Health Officer has declared a public health emergency exists; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Governor announced a thirty-day prohibition on state employee travel and directed state agencies to "maximize remote working and telecommuting"; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida issued an Administrative Order that, inter alia, suspended certain proceedings and trials within the judicial branch of Florida government; and

WHEREAS, as of the filing of this Order, executive branch state offices remain open; and

WHEREAS, a clarifying order may be necessary to avoid confusion among parties and practitioners who have business before the Division of Administrative Hearings,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Tallahassee office of the Division of Administrative Hearings remains open.
2. Administrative Law Judges have been directed to review their dockets and maximize the use of telephonic or video conferencing.
3. For DOAH hearings scheduled outside of Tallahassee, where telephone or video would be impractical, the hearings will be continued until the expiration of the Governor's initial travel prohibition. If the travel prohibition is extended, the need for additional continuances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
4. The Offices of the Judges of Compensation Claims district offices remain open.
5. Judges of Compensation Claims have been directed to use their discretion in the management of their dockets.
6. All mediations for the Offices of the Judges of Compensation Claims will be conducted telephonically through March 27, 2020.
7. Any party that may have concerns or requirements in regard to his or her ability to appear for a live hearing should communicate those concerns or requirements by motion to the Administrative Law Judge or Judge of Compensation Claims assigned to his or her case.
8. Administrative Law Judges and Judges of Compensation Claims are directed to provide the greatest deference possible to parties requiring individual accommodations.
9. Child support hearings scheduled between the issuance of this Order and the expiration of the Governor's directive for state travel will be continued until after the expiration of the initial directive. If the directive for state travel is extended, any need for additional continuances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

10. As the response to the emergency develops, parties and practitioners are advised to monitor the websites of the Division of Administrative Hearings for any further updates regarding the Division's response.

DONE AND ORDERED this 16th day of March, 2020, in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.



JOHN MACIVER
Director and Chief Judge
Division of Administrative Hearings
The DeSoto Building
1230 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060
(850) 488-9675
Fax Filing (850) 921-6847
www.doah.state.fl.us

Filed with the Clerk of the
Division of Administrative Hearings
this 16th day of March, 2020.