

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

### **Emergency Order 2020-01: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

Pursuant to sections 120.54(4), 120.569(2)(n), 252.36, and 252.46, Florida Statutes, and upon consideration of Executive Order 20-52 issued by Governor DeSantis on March 9, 2020, declaring a State of Emergency for COVID-19, and the following findings, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice enters this Emergency Order in response to the imminent danger to the public health, safety, and welfare of the youth in the agency's care and custody and all citizens of the State of Florida resulting from COVID-19.

I HEREBY FIND as follows:

1. On March 12, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice began implementing screening protocols for all visitors to juvenile detention centers and residential commitment facilities in the State operated and overseen by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and began implementing additional health screening protocols for juveniles presenting to Juvenile Assessment Centers and other detention screening centers in the State.
2. On March 15, 2020, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice restricted visitors to juvenile detention centers and residential commitment facilities in the State operated and overseen by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to exclude volunteers and staff personal visitors.
3. Executive Order 20-52, Section 4, paragraph B authorizes State agencies to "suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the conduct of state business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency."
4. The continuing COVID-19 public health emergency places the health, safety, and welfare of the youth and staff in juvenile detention centers and residential commitment facilities operated and overseen by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice at significant risk, and hinders the agency's ability to take timely and necessary action in coping with the emergency.
5. It is necessary to further restrict the movement of individuals into juvenile detention centers and residential commitment facilities operated and overseen by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

Based on these findings and under the authority of the statutes and Executive Order cited herein, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice hereby suspends operation of Rule 63E-7.102 and Rule 63G-2.023 and restricts visitors to its juvenile detention centers and residential commitment facilities through April 15, 2020, to be reevaluated for reinstatement on April 16, 2020. This restriction does not apply to attorneys conducting legal visits with youth, clinical personnel visiting youth for treatment purposes, instructional personnel providing educational services to youth, and law enforcement officers conducting official business. These individuals

will continue to be subject to the COVID-19 screening protocols implemented by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. Court hearings for youth will be conducted according to directives issued by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court and/or by the chief judges of the various circuit courts.

Executed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simone Marstiller". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

SIMONE MARSTILLER, SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

General Counsel's Office

MAR 19 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsay L. Fish". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature

Agency Clerk