



**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns & Volusia Counties  
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**Media Advisory**

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**Seventh Judicial Circuit conducts first post-pandemic jury trial in Flagler County**

In what is believed to be the first in Florida since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court is slated to commence an “in-person” jury trial in Flagler County today. “The resumption of jury trial proceedings is an important landmark in our quest to ensure citizens’ constitutional rights are protected and preserved, even in times of crisis,” said Chief Judge Raul Zambrano. “Since the implementation of our emergency operations plan in March, the Court has strived to find innovative ways to make sure that access to justice is preserved.”

Following the guidance and recommendations of the Supreme Court’s COVID-19 workgroup, and after consultation with public health officials and other justice system partners, the Court put a plan in place to conduct a criminal jury trial in a safe and careful manner. All trial participants, including jurors, must undergo a health screening prior to entering the courthouse and everyone is required to wear a mask or other facial covering. The courtroom has been reconfigured to allow for social distancing and cleaning is occurring throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is liberally available throughout the facility and frequent hand washing is encouraged. To limit the number of individuals in the courtroom, the trial proceedings are being livestreamed on YouTube. Interested persons may access the livestream from a link on Judge Terence Perkins’ webpage on the Court’s website ([www.circuit7.org](http://www.circuit7.org)).

Additional public education materials, including videos, are available at [www.Steps2SafeCourts.org](http://www.Steps2SafeCourts.org).