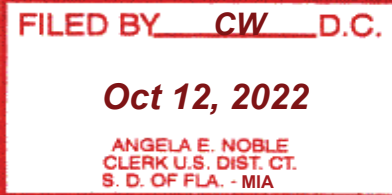


**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-86**

**IN RE: POLICY FOR EMERGENCY CLOSURES
OF FEDERAL COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IN
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**



On September 5, 2007, the Court entered Administrative Order 2007-44, establishing a uniform policy for the closure of courthouses in the event of hazardous weather conditions, including hurricanes and tropical storms. The Court’s official weather closure policy for its physical courthouses is tied to the public-school closings schedule. Thus, the federal courthouses in Miami will close if Miami-Dade County Public Schools close. The federal courthouse in Broward will close if Broward County Public Schools close. The federal courthouse in West Palm Beach will close if the Palm Beach County Public Schools close. The Fort Pierce federal courthouse will close if the St. Lucie County Public Schools close. The Key West federal courthouse will close if the Monroe County Public Schools close. This policy applies to District, Magistrate, and Bankruptcy Courts as well as U.S. Probation offices. The physical courthouses will reopen when public schools in those counties reopen or upon further order of the Chief United States District Judge.

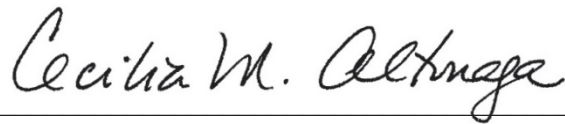
At the same time, the District Court, Magistrate Court, Bankruptcy Court, Clerk’s Office, and U.S. Probation worked effectively – and continued to service the public – by teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic. Given that experience, a federal courthouse’s physical closure in anticipation of inclement weather, or after expected inclement weather has passed the area, is, standing alone, an insufficient reason for staff not to telework. Therefore, it is

ORDERED that all staff are expected to telework before, during, and after a storm unless they have no power, no Wi-Fi, or are actively preparing for (or taking down) home-protective measures for a storm. This policy applies to District, Magistrate, and Bankruptcy Courts as well as U.S. Probation offices. It is further

ORDERED that even if a courthouse is physically closed, any Judge may, with the approval of the Chief Judge, continue to use his or her courtroom and chambers – and physical courthouses will be made available for the Judge, his or her staff, and all parties, witnesses, or lawyers who need to attend proceedings presided over by that Judge, assuming such persons are able to do so despite public school closures – during or after a storm. This will be no different than when a Judge (and his or her staff) uses “closed” courthouse facilities over the weekend or at night.

This Order will supersede any prior orders regarding closures or early dismissals due to hazardous weather conditions, including hurricanes and tropical storms. However, in the event of an emergency, whether related to weather or other causes such as fire, civil unrest, etc., the Chief United States District Judge retains the discretion to close the federal courthouse facilities irrespective of any decision by the public schools.

DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 12th day of October, 2022.



CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

c: All Southern District of Florida District Judges, Bankruptcy Judges and Magistrate Judges
Juan Antonio Gonzalez, United States Attorney
Michael Caruso, Federal Public Defender
Angela E. Noble, Court Administrator • Clerk of Court
Consuelo Irimia, Chief United States Probation Officer
Library