

# Supreme Court of Florida

AOSC07-27

IN RE: EMERGENCY REQUEST TO EXTEND TIME PERIODS  
UNDER ALL FLORIDA RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR  
COLUMBIA COUNTY

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS on Friday, May 11, 2007, hazardous conditions from a wildfire referred to as the “Bugaboo fire” caused the closure of the courts in Columbia County in the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida; and

WHEREAS this situation also may have temporarily impeded the ability of attorneys, litigants, witnesses, jurors, and others in the performance of their duties and obligations with respect to many legal processes throughout the State of Florida;

THEREFORE, pursuant to the administrative authority conferred upon me by article V, section 2, of the Florida Constitution and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.030(a)(2)(B)(iv),

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. In Columbia County, all time limits authorized by rule and statute, including the speedy trial procedure, in criminal and juvenile proceedings are tolled from 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, through 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007, *nunc pro tunc*.


2. In Columbia County, all time limits authorized by rule and statute applicable to civil (inclusive of circuit and county), family, criminal, domestic violence, probate, traffic, and small claims proceedings are tolled from 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, through 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007, *nunc pro tunc*.

3. In Columbia County, all time limits authorized by rule and statute applicable to notices of appeal of final and non-final orders, whether filed in the circuit or county court, are tolled from 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, through 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007, *nunc pro tunc*.

4. This Court recognizes that there may be instances where, because of this situation, these and other time limits applicable to matters in Columbia County could not be met even upon application of the tolling periods stated above. If such a claim is made, it shall be resolved by the court in which jurisdiction is vested on a case-by-case basis when a party demonstrates that the lack of compliance with requisite time periods was directly attributable to this situation.

5. The Court also recognizes that matters outside Columbia County may have also been affected by the court's closure. Consequently, the tolling of time periods in matters outside Columbia County shall be permitted only when a party demonstrates that the lack of compliance with requisite time periods was directly attributable to the court's closure.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on May 21, 2007.

  
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Chief Justice

ATTEST:

By: *Vickie Van Lith*  
Deputy Clerk

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Thomas D. Hall  
Clerk of Court

