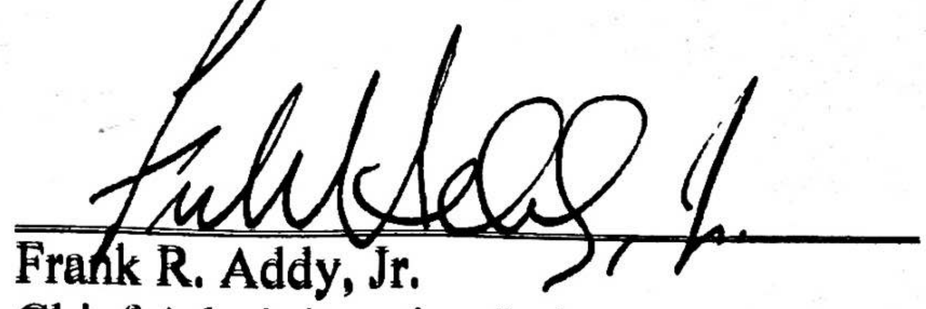
THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
	)	FOR THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTIES OF EDGEFIELD, SALUDA, AND McCORMICK,	)	**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
IN RE:	)	
DEFENDANT SIGNATURES ON SENTENCING SHEETS DURING COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY	)	

The Court is informed that the 11th Circuit Solicitor's Office is in the process of implementing video conferencing for purposes of taking guilty pleas and handling other non-jury matters for Transfer Court and the Court of General Sessions in Edgefield, Saluda, and McCormick Counties. In order to expedite the resolution of pending jail cases in those counties, the Court finds it prudent to issue this temporary order.

Until such time as the State of Emergency involving COVID-19 is lifted by our Governor, it is not be necessary for any jailed or incarcerated defendant to sign the sentencing sheet for purposes of that defendant entering a guilty plea. This order is being issued in an effort to minimize the necessity of jail visits prior to a guilty plea, to minimize the time lag in processing paperwork, and to encourage social distancing for all interested parties. The judge taking the guilty plea may simply write "defendant orally pled," or similar words, on the defendant's signature block at the time of the plea.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Frank R. Addy, Jr.
Chief Administrative Judge
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

April 2, 2020
Greenwood, South Carolina