

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTIES OF LEXINGTON,  
IN RE:

DEFENDANT SIGNATURES ON  
SENTENCING SHEETS DURING  
COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

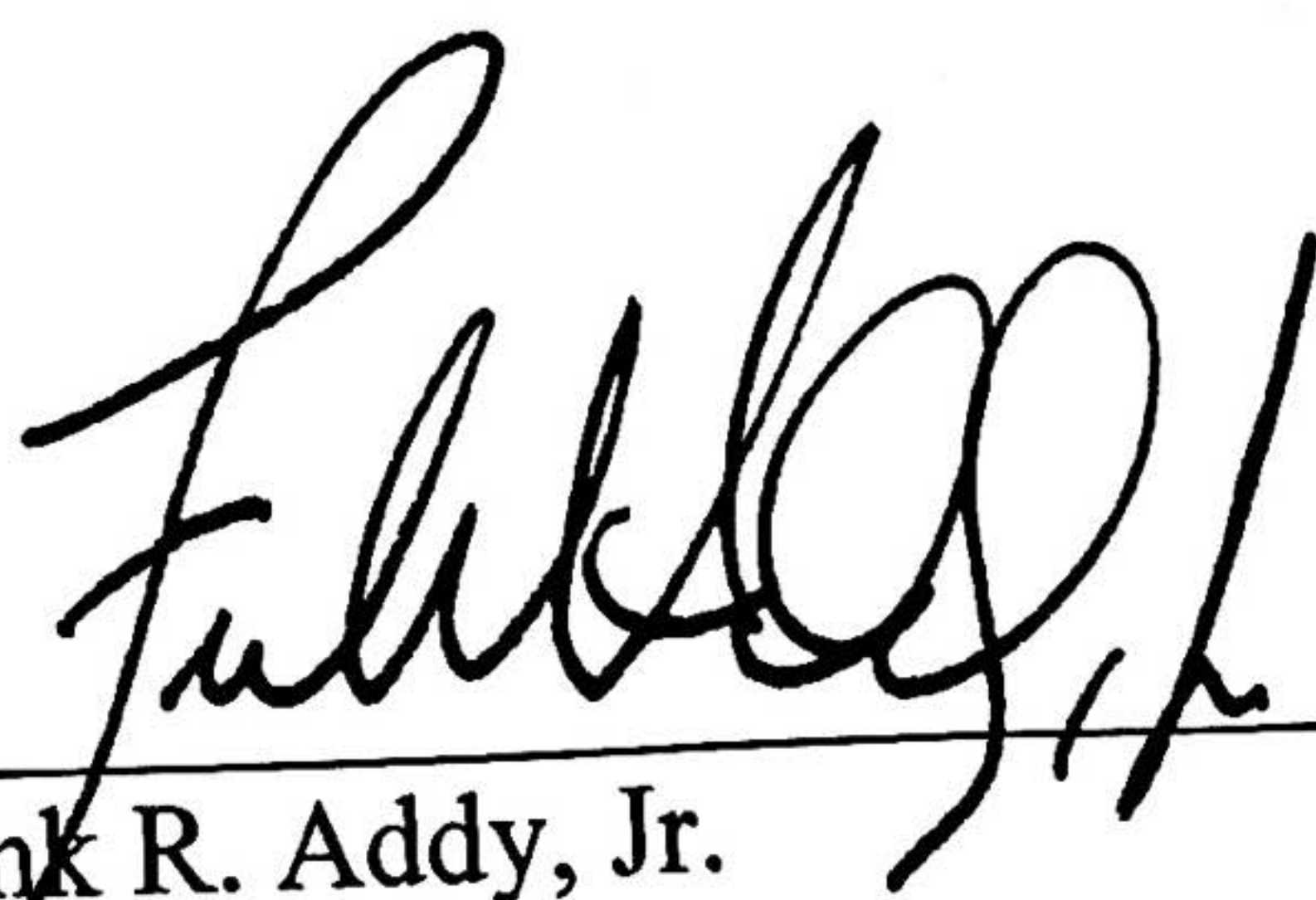
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) IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS  
) FOR THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
)  
) **GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
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The Court is informed that the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office is in 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 Lexington County. Due to increased restrictions concerning attorney access to clients at the Lexington Detention Center, 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 will 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 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.

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

March 25, 2020  
Greenwood, South Carolina