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## **St. Johns County Clerk of Court to resume issuing marriage licenses and processing passports May 11**

### **Phased reopening of services announced via new weekly Facebook video**

ST. AUGUSTINE—The St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller’s office announced today that they will begin issuing marriage licenses and processing passport applications on Monday, May 11 for St. Johns County residents by appointment only.

St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller Brandon Patty said the resumption of marriage license and passport services is the first step in a phased reopening of the clerk’s office.

“Our office has been closely tracking the pandemic while fulfilling our essential court and county functions,” said Patty, who announced the resumption of services Thursday in a video on the clerk’s office Facebook page. “We believe our state and county has us in a place where resuming limited face-to-face services by appointment only will give us the ability to minimize customer wait time, reduce the public’s interaction with each other and ensure social distancing for those we value most, our staff and the people of St. Johns County.”

### **Marriage licenses and passports**

Beginning Monday, May 11, the public will be admitted by appointment only through the north entrance of the St. Johns County Courthouse at 4010 Lewis Speedway in St. Augustine. All persons entering the courthouse must practice social distancing.

Appointments for marriage licenses and simple marriage ceremonies conducted at the front counter will be scheduled on weekdays between 9:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Admittance will be for the two individuals applying for the license and/or ceremony only; no family members, friends or guests may be admitted into the building at this time. Payment must be in the form of credit card or check, as cash cannot be accepted at this time. Please call (904) 819-3632 to schedule an appointment.

Passport appointments may be scheduled between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays for the individual applying only; no friends, family members or guests may be admitted at this time. A money order or personal check payable to the U.S. Department of State will be required for processing fees. Acceptance fees must be paid by credit card

or check, as cash cannot be accepted at this time. Passport applicants are encouraged to call (904) 819-3632 to schedule an appointment and to verify which application to complete prior to coming to the clerk's office.

The U.S. Department of State's website advises passport applicants to expect significant delays of several months in the processing of their application.

### **New video updates**

The clerk's office announced the resumption of marriage license and passport services through a Facebook video – a new weekly service that Patty instituted during the quarantine lockdown.

“With so many residents staying at home,” he said, “we thought a weekly Facebook video would be a great way to share our office's background and mission as well as how we are working to make the office even more responsive to residents' needs during this crisis.”

To be posted each week on the St. Johns County Clerk of Court Facebook page, the brief videos will continue even after the clerk's office resumes full in-person services, Patty added.

“It's a great way for us to raise awareness of the critical services the clerk's office provides and help county residents access those services as easily and efficiently as possible.”

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