

Tampa Bay Stay At Home Order Violation Attorney

The governor of Florida as well as some counties in the Tampa Bay Area, including Hillsborough and Pinellas have passed stay at home orders. Hillsborough County issued a stay at home order at the end of March. The governor of Florida then issued a state-wide stay at home order on April 1st which superseded any contradicting local orders. Here is what is allowed under the current orders:

1. Work at an essential business,
2. Leave the house for an essential service or activity, including outdoor activity, swimming, hiking, fishing and walking your dog,
3. Worship in religious institutions is also allowed under the governor's order but was not allowed under the prior contradicting Hillsborough County order,
4. You can also help or care for family, friends or loved ones, or
5. Work from home even if your business is not considered essential.

Both orders prohibit large social gatherings of 10 or more people and encourage people to practice social distancing (maintain at least a 6 foot distance).

While the governor's stay at home order overrides contradicting local orders, the governor's order does not prohibit local authorities from putting stricter orders in place. Hillsborough County has been considering such stricter orders and passed a curfew from 9pm to 5am on April 13th Only to rescind the curfew on April 16th. This means that currently no curfew is in place in Hillsborough County.

A violation of any of these orders is a 2nd degree misdemeanor and punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a \$500. This means that you could be arrested for any violation of a stay at home order or other emergency order (such as unlawful public gatherings) even though law enforcement will try to focus on education of residents first. So far several people have already been arrested state-wide, including in Hillsborough County, for a violation of emergency declaration charges. It is for example also possible that the state attorney's office or police can add on these charges if someone is arrested on other criminal charges, such as DUI or drug possession.

All of those orders are very recent and unprecedented and are changing on a constant basis. This means that it is extremely important to have an aggressive and experienced criminal defense attorney from the Wade Law Firm on your side to help you aggressively fight these charges, including exploring any kind of infringement of your constitutional rights.

If you or a loved one has been arrested or charged with a violation of an emergency order or stay at home order, or any other criminal charge, call Kerstin Wade immediately at 813-401-0130.