

**United States District Court
Southern District of Florida
November 19, 2004**

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PRESS RELEASE

Earlier this afternoon, Chief United States District Judge William J. Zloch directed that the federal courthouse facility in West Palm Beach be closed to the public and for staff until further notice. The process of dismissing staff began at about 1:00 p.m. This action was taken as a precautionary measure in response to ongoing concerns about environmental issues which developed as a result of damage from this summer's hurricanes.

Chief Judge Zloch directed that West Palm Beach courthouse staff and public services be relocated to Fort Lauderdale until such time as the West Palm Beach Courthouse is reopened. West Palm Beach criminal duty matters, including initial hearings for new arrests, will be held at the United States Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale at 299 East Broward Boulevard. We will provide additional information on our website as it becomes available.