

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. C-2008-05

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CREATING THE MENTAL HEALTH
COURT AND THE MENTAL HEALTH COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM
IN CITRUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 394, Florida Statutes (2007), the Legislature encouraged the creation of Mental Health Court programs to align policy initiatives in the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and mental health systems to establish a Mental Health Court and ensure the most effective use of resources and to coordinate the shared needs of adults and juveniles who have a mental illness, substance abuse disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 394.66, Florida Statutes (2007), the Legislature has set forth its intent with respect to mental illness, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders;

WHEREAS, in cooperation with the Citrus County Board of County Commission Court Alternatives Program, the Circuit Court of Citrus County, the Office of the State Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, the Centers, the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, the Citrus County Detention Center, and other key community resources; it is thereupon,

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that:

1. The felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile Mental Health Court and Mental Health Court Diversion Program in Citrus County is established to hear and oversee cases involving individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders.

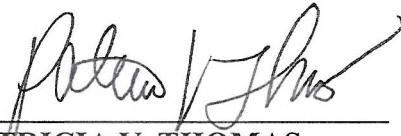
2. The Administrative Judge of Citrus County, in cooperation with the Citrus County Court Alternatives Program Coordinator, the Office of the State Attorney, and the Centers, shall establish the criteria for admission into the program and the program's key components for those defendants in Citrus County with mental illness, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders. The Mental Health Court shall be based upon Citrus County's drug court/dependency court model.

3. The Clerk of the Circuit Court is authorized to accept sources of funding, including participation fees collected, if any, from mental health court defendants in Citrus County. The fees for mental court participants shall be set by the Citrus County Board of County Commission Court Alternatives Program in cooperation with the Administrative Judge of Citrus County.

4. This Order shall be effective immediately upon approval and shall apply to all pending

and future cases before the Circuit Court in and for Citrus County.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Inverness, Citrus County, Florida, this 11
day of Feb, 2008.



PATRICIA V. THOMAS
Administrative Judge
Citrus County, Fifth Judicial Circuit