

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER H-2010-46-A

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CREATING THE HERNANDO
COUNTY YOUTH COURT DIVISION IN HERNANDO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Youth Court Programs have been adopted in the Fifth Judicial Circuit as effective pre-arrest and pre-trial intervention and diversionary juvenile justice programs; and

WHEREAS, Juvenile Divisions of several Judicial Circuits throughout the State of Florida have created and implemented a peer review system of case disposition most commonly referred to as "Youth Court"; and

WHEREAS, it is of the general opinion that such Youth Courts have enjoyed overwhelming success in reducing the recidivism rate in Juvenile Delinquency cases; and

WHEREAS, this Order and the terms thereof are appropriate for the efficient administration of justice to create a separate, alternative court, to be known as "Hernando County Youth Court"; and therefore:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. An alternative court program is hereby established in Hernando County which shall be know as the "Hernando County Youth Court."
2. Youth Court shall consist of eligible cases from the other court divisions for possible referral into Youth Court. The mission statement, eligibility criteria, and procedures for Youth Court shall be set out in a document separate from this Order.
3. This Order shall be effective immediately upon approval and shall apply to all pending and future cases before divisions of Court in Hernando County.
4. All defendants participating in the Hernando County Youth Court Program shall be required to pay a fee of \$50.00 as directed by the Court Operations Manager, unless waived or adjusted by the Circuit Judge presiding over juvenile delinquency matters in Hernando County or the Court Operations

Manager. No other individual is authorized to waive any portion of the fees assessed herein.

5. There is a no refund policy for any funds paid by program participants of this Program regardless of the individuals success or termination from the Program.

6. The Clerk of the Court is authorized to accept any participation fees collected for the Hernando County Youth Court defendants in Hernando County.

7. The Program is created and shall be maintained subject to the availability of adequate funding.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, this 22 day of March, 2011.



DANIEL B. MERRITT, SR.
Administrative Judge
Hernando County, Florida

