

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. L 2015-18

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRONIC
SEARCH AND ARREST WARRANTS IN LAKE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, it is necessary and proper for the prompt and efficient administration of justice in Lake County to establish procedures for applying for search and arrest warrants; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has authorized the use of an electronic warrant system; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of speedy, efficient and proper administration of justice, Lake County has adopted an electronic warrant system; and

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215 and authority as Chief Judge of this Fifth Judicial Circuit, it is

ORDERED AS FOLLOWS: Effective July 10, 2015 at 12:01 p.m., the following policies and procedures shall be implemented in Lake County:

1. Lake County has developed an Electronic Warrant System (hereinafter E-warrant System). All the Lake County law enforcement agencies and Judges will be approved and trained on the E-warrant System. Law enforcement officers seeking to obtain search and arrest warrants **shall** use the E-warrant System for all warrants with limited exceptions as outlined herein. The goal is for all search and arrest warrants, with very few exceptions, to be processed via the E-warrant System and paper submissions will end.
2. The E-warrant System shall not be used when: (a) the State Attorney has a good faith belief that the search or arrest warrant is exceptionally sensitive and directs the law enforcement officer to use a paper warrant (b) the E-Warrant System is not operating or (c) the Fifth circuit network is not operational. In such an event, paper warrants will be required.
3. **The following procedures shall apply to all E-warrants:**
 - i. All warrant(s) shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the State Attorney.
 - ii. The affidavit shall be signed by the officer and notarized prior to email submission.
 - iii. All arrest warrants shall include a bond amount as set forth by the Bond Schedule.

- iv. All affidavit(s) and warrant(s) shall be uploaded as an attachment to an e-mail in PDF format only.
- v. The email, which shall include the affidavit(s) and warrant(s) as a PDF attachment, shall include all special circumstances that may exist and/or special conditions requested to be imposed. The e-mail should also clearly state that the Office of the State Attorney has reviewed and approved the warrant.
- vi. The law enforcement officer shall then contact the Lake County Sheriff's Communication Center (Com Center) and advise Com Center that the e-mail has been sent to the Duty Judge and request that the Duty Judge be advised of same. The law enforcement officer should not contact the Com Center until the electronically signed sworn affidavit(s) and warrant(s) have been uploaded and the e-mail (with attachments), has been sent to the Duty Judge and are ready for review and signature.
- vii. The Com Center shall thereafter notify the Duty Judge via telephone advising that the e-mail has been sent to the central e-mail address. The Com Center may leave a voice mail in the event the Duty Judge cannot answer the call.
- viii. If the affidavit(s) and warrant(s) are legally sufficient and the Duty Judge signs the warrant(s), the Duty Judge will then send the signed warrant(s) to the sending law enforcement officer via return e-mail.

4. **EMERGENCY WARRANTS AFTER HOURS:** *An emergency exists when the law enforcement officer has a good faith belief that unless a warrant is signed and executed immediately, it will frustrate an arrest, endanger lives, or permit the destruction of evidence.*

5. **FAILURE IN TRANSMISSION OF THE E-MAIL: SYSTEM FAILURE**

- a. If the Duty Judge has been advised by Com Center that an e-mail has been sent to the central e-mail repository and the Duty Judge does not receive the e-mail the Duty Judge shall immediately notify the Com Center that the transmission of the e-mail has failed. The Com Center shall immediately notify the sending law enforcement officer to re-send the e-mail. If, after the second attempt, the Duty Judge still does not receive the e-mail, the law enforcement officer will have to proceed with a paper warrant, hand delivered to the Duty Judge.
- b. If the sending officer, after sending the e-mail and its accompanying attachments, receives a return message that the e-mail was undeliverable or similar transmission failure message the sending officer shall assume there is an unforeseen system failure and shall notify the Com Center and the Duty Judge will be notified by the Com Center that the law enforcement officer will be proceeding with a paper warrant.

6. All Lake County Law Enforcement agencies seeking to obtain search and arrest warrants **shall** use the E-warrant System and only in the scenarios described in paragraph 2 may use paper search and arrest warrants after the effective date of this order.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers, Lake County, Florida this 23 day of June, 2015.



DON F. BRIGGS
CHIEF JUDGE
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Distribution list:

Copies to: Clerk of Court Lake County
All Judges, Lake County
Court Administration, Fifth Judicial Circuit
All Law Enforcement Agencies serving Lake County