

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER M-2014-2

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE MARION COUNTY
TRUANCY COURT PROGRAM IN MARION COUNTY
AND
ORDER RESCINDING M2002-12**

WHEREAS, Habitual Truancy of the Children of Marion County has been a continuing concern of the Court as a gateway activity to the detriment of such children, and to the safety of the people and property of Marion County; and

WHEREAS, Circuit Judge Jack Singbush, in cooperation with the Marion County Public Schools, diverse civic and charitable organizations, municipal police agencies, the Sheriff of Marion County, and the State Attorney of the 5th Judicial Circuit of Florida, have for several years instituted and maintained a Truancy Intervention Partnership Program to educate and inform both parents and children of the legal obligations imposed by Florida's laws regarding compulsory school attendance, Fla. Stat. §§1003.26 and 1003.27 (2013), and to provide assistance in compliance therewith; and

WHEREAS, The Superintendent of Schools in Marion County, Florida, has utilized his authority under Sections 984.151, 1003.26 and 1003.27, Florida Statutes (2013), to file Truancy Petitions, in accord with his obligation to enforce compulsory school attendance, invoking the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court in furtherance of an additional initiative to protect the general public and to promote lawful school attendance pursuant to Chapters 984, and 1003, Florida Statutes (2013), and Circuit Judge Jack Singbush has served as Judge of said initiative known as the Truancy Court Initiative and has retired from the bench effective January 3, 2014; and

WHEREAS, said Truancy Court has proven to be a worthwhile effort to address the problem of truancy in Marion County, Florida, involving diverse public servants volunteering their time and employing minimum resources with the potential for the enhancement of the safety of the general public and the education of our children;

WHEREAS, it is known to me that it is necessary to the continued success of the Truancy Court Initiative in Marion County that Truancy Court be established as a permanent, separate alternative court, to be known as "Marion County Truancy Court" and upon the

retirement of the Honorable Jack Singbush, a judge be assigned to the responsibilities of the Marion County Truancy Court; it is therefore

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that:

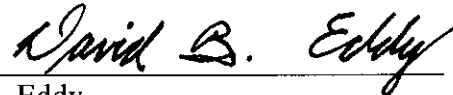
1. An alternative court program is hereby established in Marion County, which shall be known as the "Marion County Truancy Court."

2. This Order shall be effective immediately upon approval and shall apply to all pending and future cases initiated by the filing of a Truancy Petition in the Circuit Court in and for Marion County.

3. The Honorable Anthony M. Tatti, Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court, sitting in Marion County, of the State of Florida, is hereby assigned and designated to act as the Judge of the Truancy Court of Marion County, to hear, conduct, try and determine the cause or causes which shall be presented to him as judge of said court, and thereafter to dispose of all matters considered by him.

4. This Order rescinds Administrative Order M2002-12.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, in Ocala, Marion County, Florida this 8th day of January, 2014.



David B. Eddy
Administrative Judge for Marion County
Fifth Judicial Circuit