

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

Administrative Order: A-2018-55

ORDER REGARDING GUARDIAN ADVOCATE TRAINING COURSES

This Order rescinds and replaces Administrative Order A-1997-35.

Florida Statutes set forth minimum training requirements for a guardian advocate appointed in Baker Act and Marchman Act cases. Requiring completion of training in every case before the guardian advocate is allowed to exercise his or her authority potentially delays the ability to make treatment decisions and may be detrimental to the patient for whom treatment is prescribed.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED

1. The following persons, if appointed as a guardian advocate for a patient in a Baker Act or Marchman Act case, are excused from the requirement of mandatory training to serve as guardian advocate: the patient's spouse; an adult child of the patient; a parent of the patient; the adult next of kin of the patient; or an adult friend of the patient.
2. Every person appointed as a guardian advocate in a Baker Act or Marchman Act case is encouraged to participate in the online training which is available through <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/mentalhealth/training/index.shtml>
3. A person other than one listed in paragraph 1 will be required at a minimum to complete the training as identified in paragraph 2, above, unless he or she has completed prior greater or equivalent training, or unless excused by the judge presiding in the case.
4. Nothing in this order prohibits the presiding judge from imposing other or different training requirements in any given case.
5. Administrative Order A-1997-35 is hereby rescinded.

DONE AND ORDERED in Marion County, Florida, on August 29, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Sue Robbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a distinct "Robbins" at the end.

Chief Judge
S Sue Robbins