

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER H-2021-20

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE: JURY OPERATIONS
(*Nunc pro tunc* to May 31, 2021)**

WHEREAS, Section 40.26, Florida Statutes indicates the Sheriff of Hernando County shall provide juries with meals and lodging when ordered by the court; and

WHEREAS, Section 40.26, Florida Statutes also requires the expense of meals and lodging provided to juries by the Hernando Sheriff to be paid by the Hernando County Clerk of Court; and

WHEREAS, an empaneled juror, through the course of their service, should be provided reasonable additional sustenance as needed during their time in service of the court; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of judicial efficiency that there be a standing order for times when meals and or lodging are deemed necessary by the judge, as well as clearly defined roles in said process;

IT IS THEREFORE,


ORDERED AND ADJUDGED as follows:

- 1) The Hernando County Clerk of the Court shall provide juror meals when requested by the court. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office shall provide transport to, and security of, lodging for jurors when requested by the court.
- 2) The Hernando County Clerk of the Court or their designee shall maintain a current list of available restaurants for meals as well as edited menus with items that meet reasonable meal prices. Reasonable will be defined by the rate set forth in FLA. STAT. §112.061 for per diem and travel expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons.
- 3) The Hernando County Clerk of the Court or their designee in conjunction with Court Administration, shall maintain a reasonable assortment of snacks, hard candy, beverages to include water, soda, coffee, and necessary utensils for such items. These items shall be purchased with county funds through Court Administration as well as the Hernando County Clerk. Appliances as needed, will be purchased by Court Administration through county funds.
- 4) The Hernando County Sheriff's Office shall identify, vet, and negotiate as needed, lodging for jurors when required by the court. Regular contact with hotels that meet the needs of the Hernando County Sheriff's Department, should be made to ensure a current list of hotels and contacts is available. Compensation for needed lodging shall be provided by the Hernando County Clerk of Court by those means negotiated with selected hotels.

DBM/JN

5) Judges and Court Administration shall be kept advised, in writing, of all changes or modifications to menus.

DONE and ORDERED in Chambers in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, this 16th day of June, 2021 *nunc pro tunc* to May 31, 2021.



Daniel B. Merritt, Jr
Chief Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit