

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER L-2022-30

**RE: PRETRIAL PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN SMALL CLAIMS
CASES WHERE THE DEFENDANT HAS NOT BEEN SERVED**

WHEREAS, the undersigned, been designated by the Chief Judge as Administrative Judge for Lake County, pursuant to Rule 2.215(b)(5), Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration; and,

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and appropriate for the prompt, effective, and efficient administration of justice within County Courts of Lake County; with the advice and consent of Judge Carla Pepperman, and to eliminate the need for individualized orders, to avoid undue confusion and uncertainty for the public, litigants and other involved in the court system, this Administrative Order prescribes certain procedures applicable to specific small claims cases;

It is **THEREFORE ORDERED** as follows:

1. In the event that a defendant in a small claims case has not been served for the initial small claims pretrial conference, the judge may continue the pretrial two times; if the defendant has not been served by the third small claims pretrial date, the judge shall dismiss the case without prejudice to refile.
2. No further Notice or Hearing will be required,

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Tavares, Lake County, Florida, this 15th day of June 2022.

**JAMES BAXLEY
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE,
LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA**