

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

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.: A-2015-07-B
(amended in regard to the use of electronic devices in a courthouse facility)

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DESIGNATING
MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

AND

DIRECTION FOR PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

WHEREAS, there is a need for the courts to convey information and direction to the media and to the public at large, and;

WHEREAS, the access to, and the use of, electronic devices capable of making or transmitting still or moving photographs, video recordings or images of any kind has become almost universal, and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.451(c)(2), the Chief Judge has the authority to regulate the use of electronic devices in a courthouse or court facility to (A) ensure decorum and prevent distractions; (B) ensure the fair administration of justice; and (C) to preserve courtroom security and safety, courthouse facility security and safety, and judicial branch employee and public citizen security and safety in such locations, and;

NOW, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida under Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, and being more fully informed and advised in the premises,

IT IS THEREFORE,

ADMINISTRATIVELY ORDERED as follows:

1. The following individual has been designated as the media point of contact Public Information Officer (PIO) for each respective county within this Fifth Judicial Circuit:

JEFFREY K. FULLER, ESQ.

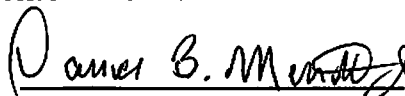
Lake County Courthouse
550 W. Main Street
Tavares, FL 32778-7800
Ph.: (352) 742 4393

2. The Judges of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, as well as all Court Administration Staff may direct any, and all, media inquiries to the designated PIO.
3. The PIO shall forward any, and all, public records requests submitted pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapter 119 or Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.420, made by any individual, group, or entity, for legal sufficiency, review and response to:

Roy L. Wolgamuth, Esq.
General Counsel, Fifth Circuit
Lake County Courthouse
550 W. Main Street,
Tavares, FL 32778-7800

4. The PIO will act as the liaison between the court, the public, and the media and is authorized to reasonably seek the advice, assistance, or expertise of any private or governmental entity in the administration of this order.
5. Pursuant to, and in accordance with, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, the making or transmitting of still or moving photographs, video recording, or images of any kind within all public areas of a courthouse or courthouse facility **requires prior approval** of the PIO, General Counsel, or respective Court Operations Manager for each county for the reasons specified herein.
6. This Order shall become effective immediately.

IT IS SO ORDERED in Chambers, in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, on this 22nd day of September 2022.



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