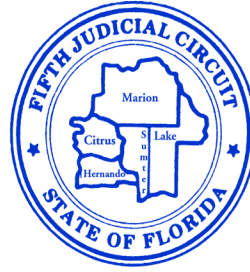


**The Marion County
Mental Health Court is
a collaborative effort of:**

- ❖ Marion County Court
- ❖ Office of the Public Defender
- ❖ Office of the State Attorney
- ❖ NAMI of Marion County
- ❖ SMA Healthcare
- ❖ The Vines
- ❖ Marion County Sheriffs Office
- ❖ Court Administration
- ❖ Marion County Clerks Office



**Marion County
Mental Health Court**

The Honorable Thomas P. Thompson, III

*For information or to make a referral,
please contact:*

*Carolyn Weldon, Mental Health Court
Court Alternatives Coordinator*

352-401-6769

Fax: 352-401-7896

**MARION COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

110 NW First Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34475

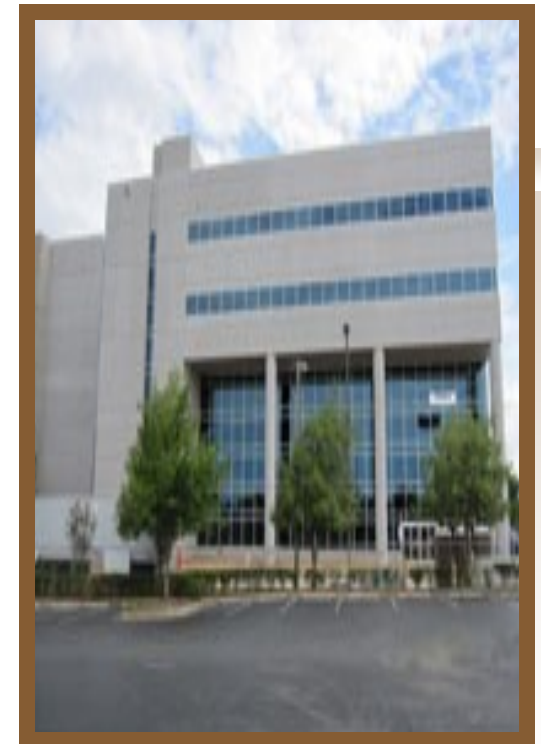
Phone: 352-401-6769

Fax: 352-401-7896

E-mail cweldon@circuit5.org

**Marion County
MENTAL
HEALTH COURT**

A guide for Attorneys and other professionals



Our Mission

Our mission is to divert non-violent defendants with mental illness from the Marion County Jail and active criminal prosecution in the Marion County Court to appropriate community based treatment and support services to best protect public safety, reduce recidivism and help those defendants to build successful lives.

Our Priority

The priority of the Marion County Mental Health Court (MCMHC) is public safety. In that regard, the MCMHC seeks to address the mental health issues that often result in certain defendants being repeatedly taken to the Marion County Jail. The MCMHC offers certain defendants the chance to be diverted from the jail while those defendants are connected to therapeutic and other community services.

Who is Eligible?

A defendant can only be accepted into the MCMHC as follows [generally stated]:

- must have been arrested for, or charged with, a misdemeanor alleged to have been committed in Marion County.
- must be represented by an attorney.
- must meet **residency requirement** [generally 90 days in Marion County prior to application].
- must have ability to comprehend and conform to MCMHC program.

*A copy of the MCMHC Policies Manual and the requisite referral and consent forms may be obtained from the Fifth Judicial Circuit's website at: www.circuit5.org. Once at the website, click on the Programs and Services link which will direct you to the Marion County Mental Health Court link or contact **Carolyn Weldon, MCMHC Case Manager @ 401-6769.***

FOR "PRIMARY REFERRAL":

- must meet Criminal Justice Eligibility Criteria [no pending DUI or felony charge AND not a past sex offender or "violent offender"].
- must meet Mental Health Eligibility Criteria [have persistent qualifying diagnosis; can have co-occurring diagnosis].
- must consent to MCMHC goals and practices.
- must waive speedy trial.

"ALTERNATIVE REFERRAL":

- must have been adjudged incompetent to proceed in pending misdemeanor case.