

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.: **S-2023- 50**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING
DUTY JUDGE ROTATION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024**

The undersigned, having considered that the Legislature has mandated a Judge shall be available as nearly as possible at all times to hold and conduct hearings to handle emergency cases. A Judge, commonly referred to as the “duty judge”, shall be available at all times to handle applications for search warrants, pen registers, petitions for *ex parte* injunctive relief to prevent domestic and repeat violence, and other emergency matters. In this context, the term “emergency” encompasses the foregoing *ex parte* applications and other matters of extreme urgency; *i.e.*, matters of life and death or instances of irreparable harm. Not included in this definition are matters of extreme urgency in cases that have been assigned to a division.

ORDERED as follows:

1. Attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference is the rotation for the Sumter County Duty Judge Assignments for 2024. This duty shall be in addition to Tri-County Weekend and Holiday Duty Judge assignments by the Chief Judge of the Circuit.
2. The assigned duty Judge shall be available to handle all matters needing emergency Judicial attention, Monday through Friday, for the months that they are assigned. A Judge shall be on call 24 hours a day on normal business days during their months.
3. Nothing in this order shall preclude Judges from accepting responsibility for another Judge’s emergency duty assistance by agreement, in writing, with copies to all of the following: Sumter County Judges, Clerk of Court, Sheriff’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, State Attorney’s Office, Departments of Juvenile Justice and Children and Family Services, and the State Court Administrative Assistant assigned

to Sumter County.

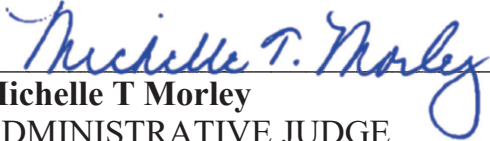
4. It is not the intention of this Court that any duty Judge shall be required to handle matters that are assigned to another Judge. This order is only to ensure 24-hour judicial-business-day coverage in Sumter County as mandated by the Legislature, the Rules of Judicial Administration, and the orders of the Chief Judge of this Circuit.

5. Any County Court Judge who serves as the duty Judge under this Order is hereby assigned to act as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit should an emergency requiring the actions of a Circuit Judge arise during the County Judge's term as duty Judge. This is not to be construed as a permanent assignment of the County Court Judge to the Circuit Court bench and shall be effective only during the time that the County Court Judge shall serve as the duty Judge hereunder.

6. The Clerk of the Court of Sumter County has been provided with a signature stamp of each of the Judges in Sumter County so that the Clerk may affix the stamped signature on orders and documents requiring the signature of the duty Judge, after personally speaking to the Judge, explaining the situation, reading the document over the telephone, and receiving a verbal authorization from the Judge to affix the signature stamp thereon. Such stamped signature shall have the same force and effect as a manual signature, and the Clerk of the Court shall be responsible for the safekeeping of said signature stamps, pursuant to the provisions of Section 116.34, Florida Statutes.

7. This Order shall be effective as of January 2, 2024.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida, this 7th day of December 2023.



Michelle T Morley
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Sumter County Duty Judge Schedule for 2024

MONTH:	JUDGE:
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JANUARY	JUDGE Morley
FEBRUARY	JUDGE Morley
MARCH	JUDGE Militello
APRIL	JUDGE Morley
MAY	JUDGE Hatcher
JUNE	JUDGE Militello
JULY	JUDGE Hatcher
AUGUST	JUDGE Militello
SEPTEMBER	JUDGE Hatcher
OCTOBER	JUDGE Militello
NOVEMBER	JUDGE Morley
DECEMBER	JUDGE Hatcher

**** FROM 8:00 A.M. FIRST WORKING DAY OF THE MONTH TO 5:00 P.M. ON THE LAST WORKING DAY OF THE MONTH (For Weekends and Holidays, refer to Weekend and Holiday Tri-County Duty Roster)**