

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. A-2024-06

**REGARDING ELDERCARE COORDINATION AS A FORM OF
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION WITHIN THE FIFTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

WHEREAS, Section 44.407, Florida Statutes, provides a statutory structure for eldercaring coordination; and

WHEREAS, Section 44.407(12), Florida Statutes, tasked the Florida Supreme Court with establishing minimum standards and procedures for the qualification, ethical conduct, discipline, and training and education of eldercaring coordinators; and

WHEREAS, AOSC22-12 was issued by the Florida Supreme Court on May 20, 2022 establishing the administrative responsibility for eldercaring coordination, minimum standards and procedures for the qualification and disqualification of eldercaring coordinators, and the authority, and limitation on that authority, regarding the roster of qualified eldercaring coordinators; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, Section 43.26, Florida Statutes, 2.215 Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, charges the Chief Judge with the authority to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts over which he or she is chief judge;

It is therefore;

ORDERED as follows:

1. The Director of Alternative Dispute Resolution for the Fifth Judicial Circuit (ADR Director) is hereby designated to have administrative responsibility for the Fifth Judicial Circuit Eldercaring Coordination Program.
2. The Fifth Judicial Circuit shall maintain a roster of qualified

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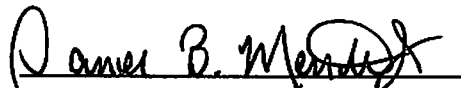
eldercaring coordinators (the Roster) from which the trial courts may appoint an eldercaring coordinator.

3. Eldercaring coordinators shall be qualified and disqualified pursuant to section 44.407(5) and (6), Florida Statutes, and no other requirements to be on the Roster shall be instituted.
4. Individuals seeking court-ordered appointments as an eldercaring coordinator must complete the Eldercaring Coordinator Application developed by the Dispute Resolution Center of the Office of the State Courts Administrator, as required by Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC22-12. The application and information regarding submission in either hardcopy or electronic format may be found on the Fifth Judicial Circuit website.
5. The ADR Director shall review each submitted application to determine if an individual meets the qualifications to be included on the Roster.
6. In addition to the ADR Director's initial determination that an applicant meets the qualifications to be included on the Roster, the ADR Director shall periodically review whether an eldercaring coordinator continues to be qualified and shall remove an eldercaring coordinator immediately from the Roster if the coordinator is no longer.
7. In accordance with section 44.407(6), Florida Statutes, an eldercaring coordinator must resign and immediately report to the court if he or she no longer meets the minimum qualification or if any of the disqualifying circumstances occurs, and the court shall remove him or her upon resignation or disqualification.
8. The General Counsel of the Fifth Judicial Circuit is hereby designated to hear and decide any appeal pertaining to an

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eldercaring coordinator's inclusion on or removal from the Roster, whose decision shall be final.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida this 23rd day of January 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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