



PAM VERGARA
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
Hernando County Courthouse
Room 200
20 N. Main Street
Brooksville, FL 34601

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COURTESY COPIES TO THE
PRESIDING JUDGE
FOR THE HONORABLE PAM VERGARA
CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION**

WHEREAS Hernando County continues to grow, and the number of cases filed and presented in the Court system continues to expand in an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS numerous attorneys are now practicing before the Courts, many of whom are either new to practice of law, or are new to the practice procedures local to Hernando County; and

WHEREAS the number of attorneys practicing before the Courts of this county are expected to expand at an ever-increasing rate; and

WHEREAS as practices and procedures that were possible in years past may no longer be available with the Court expanding on e-filing and paperless courts; and

WHEREAS it has come to the Court's attention that attorneys are filing pleadings with the Clerk of the Court without sending a courtesy copy to the assigned judge; and

WHEREAS such pleadings are not provided to the assigned Judge through the normal intake process (hand delivery to the clerk or E-filing through the clerk's E-portal); and

WHEREAS the Courts cannot be expected to or be held responsible for not timely ruling on such matters when the Courts are not aware that any such pleadings (time sensitive or ordinary) has ever been filed; and

WHEREAS it is important to make clear the expectation of the Court and the responsibilities of litigants and counsel before the Courts of this County so as to insure a simple and effective means for making the Courts aware that a matter (time sensitive or ordinary) requiring the attention of the Court has been filed, and being otherwise advised in the premises, it is upon consideration

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that:

Whenever an attorney practicing before the Courts of Hernando County, or any *pro se* litigant, files **any** original pleading, motion, etc. with the Clerk of the Courts (emergency in need of expeditious ruling by the Courts or ordinary/normal intake pleading) that the Judge assigned to such case **shall**, contemporaneously with the filing of the original pleading, receive a courtesy copy of the pleading **from** the **ATTORNEY OF RECORD**, or **from** the **PRO SE LITIGANT** **along with any PROPOSED ORDER IN WORD FORMAT** to jwhite@circuit5.org. That absent such practice being followed by those bringing cases before the Courts, or unless other specific arrangements are explicitly made with the Clerk of the Court by the litigant or counsel, the Courts cannot reasonably be expected to, nor can they practically and expeditiously rule on any matter not otherwise brought to their attention by a courtesy copy of the pleading being immediately delivered to the judge assigned to such case.

DONE AND ORDERED, in Chambers, Brooksville, Hernando County this 16 day of January 2024.


Pam Vergara, Circuit Judge