

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: M-2024-46**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER EXPANDING MARION COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH COURT TO INCLUDE CERTAIN FELONY CASES  
AND RESCINDING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER M-2009-06**

Marion County Mental Health Court was established pursuant to Administrative Order M-2009-06, which provided for the admission of defendants with misdemeanor cases only.

The expansion of Mental Health Court to include both misdemeanor and felony cases will be beneficial to the administration of justice to handle certain mentally ill defendants with an emphasis on treatment and support services to best protect the public safety, reduce recidivism and help those mentally ill persons build successful lives.

Policies and procedures for the Marion County Mental Health Court have been developed in cooperation with the Marion County Clerk's Office, the Office of the State Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Court Administration, local substance providers and others. It is therefore,

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:**

1. Marion County Mental Health Court is expanded to include certain felony and misdemeanor cases, and to take jurisdiction over those cases of people with mental illness from the regular criminal dockets of the Marion County Court.
2. The policies and procedures of Marion County Mental Health Court shall be set forth in the Marion County Mental Health Court (Misdemeanor Pre-Plea & Felony Post Plea) Policy & Procedure Manual and shall include court requirements, eligibility criteria and referral procedures.
3. County Court Judge Thomas P. Thompson, III shall be assigned to regularly preside over Marion County Mental Health Court.
4. The Office of the State Attorney shall determine eligibility and approve defendants for Mental Health Court. The Judge assigned to the case shall make the final determination of a defendant's acceptance into Mental Health Court, and thereafter enter an order allowing a defendant to participate in Mental Health Court.
5. A defendant's case will be transferred back to the previously assigned criminal court docket if a defendant is terminated from the Marion County Mental Health Court for any reason other than graduation.

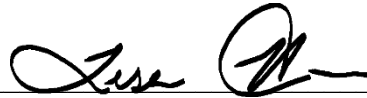
6. All hearings conducted by Marion County Mental Health Court shall be recorded electronically or by court reporter.

7. Defendants participating in Marion County Mental Health Court will be required to pay a monthly fee for each month they are a participant in Mental Health Court unless waived or adjusted by the presiding Judge, and there will be a no refund policy for any funds paid by, or on behalf of, any defendant participating in Mental Health Court.

8. The Clerk of Court is authorized to accept any participation fee or other funds collected incidental to a defendant's participation in Marion County Mental Health Court.

9. This Order rescinds Administrative Order M-2009-06.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in chambers at Ocala, Marion County, Florida, this 30th day of September, 2024.



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**LISA HERNDON  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
MARION COUNTY**