

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: L-2025-33**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE LAKE COUNTY  
ADULT POST-ADJUDICATORY DRUG COURT PILOT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Florida Law affords individuals charged with certain crimes resulting from a substance abuse problem the opportunity to treat the root cause of their engagement in the criminal justice system through problem-solving court programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, it has been found that specialized court dockets are beneficial to manage the criminal cases of eligible individuals and to provide referral for treatment of their substance abuse problem (a/k/a substance use disorder); and,

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 397.334, Florida Statutes, allows counties to fund a treatment-based drug court program for the purpose of providing persons assessed with a substance abuse problem to be processed in a manner to appropriately address the severity of the identified substance abuse problem through treatment services tailored to the individual needs of the participant; and,

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a pilot program entitled; "Lake County Adult Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court Program" is to the benefit of the residents of Lake County, Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Fifth Judicial Circuit currently receives funds to support the Lake County Adult Post Adjudicatory Drug Court Program and its participants; and

**WHEREAS**, the pilot program is designed to serve eligible defendants/offenders from post-adjudicatory felony cases in Lake County, including post-adjudicatory violation of probation cases, certain post-adjudicatory 3<sup>rd</sup> degree non-violent felony cases under Chapter 810, Florida Statutes; or any other felony offense that is not a forcible felony as defined in section 776.08, Florida Statutes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Offenders with sentencing scores of 60 points or fewer or Offenders with sentencing scores of 60 points or fewer who have violated community control or probation due to a positive or suspect drug screen – if the underlying offense occurred on or after July 1, 2009, may be eligible to participate; and,

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, in its entirety, establishes the provision of substance misuse services within the State of Florida, and;

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 397.334(4), Florida Statute establishes that the treatment-based drug court programs shall include therapeutic jurisprudence principles and adhere to the 10 key components, recognized by the Drug Courts Program Office of the Office of Justice Programs of the United States Department of Justice and adopted by the Florida Supreme Court Treatment-Based Drug Court Steering Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of judicial economy and for the efficient administration of justice,


**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- 1. The Lake County Adult Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court is created and established as a pilot program,** and shall be maintained subject to the availability of adequate funding or until such time that either a permanent program is established or the pilot program is no longer deemed judicially economical and/or efficiently administering justice.
- 2. The Lake County Adult Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court** shall determine whether any potentially eligible case type and Offender from the other Circuit Criminal Division meets the criteria for the Offender to be referred to substance use disorder treatment and support.
- 3. The Lake County Adult Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court** will limit participation in the program to no more than 10 participants. Additional participants may be added upon approval of the Lake County Administrative Judge.
- 4.** Any application fee for a Defendant who applies for acceptance into the **Lake County Adult Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court** shall be waived. This Provision will be re-evaluated each October to ascertain the effectiveness of said waiver.
- 5.** Any monthly participation fee for person who is accepted into the **Lake County Adult Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court** shall be waived. This provision will be reevaluated each October to ascertain the effectiveness of the waiver of the monthly participation fee.
- 6.** There shall be no refunds of any assessed fees which have already been paid.
- 7.** The policies and procedures of the **Lake County Adult Post-**

**Adjudicatory Drug Court** shall be set forth in the Policy & Procedure Manual and shall include court requirements, eligibility criteria and referral procedures and will follow the Florida Supreme Court Best Practice Standards.

8. If defendants' participation in the program is terminated for cause, the defendant shall be terminated from the drug court program and sentenced accordingly by the drug court judge. The unpaid balance of any assessed fee(s) may become a lien of record.
9. All hearings conducted pursuant to this administrative order shall be electronically recorded.

**DONE and ORDERED** in Chambers at Tavares, Lake County, Florida this 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2025.



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James R. Baxley  
Lake County Administrative  
Judge