

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER: A-2025-47-C

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING **WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY DUTY 2026** **(Amended only to remove Judge Vergara from the roster)**

The undersigned having considered that (1) Rule 3.130(a) of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure provides for the prompt first appearance of all arrested persons, (2) it is the opinion of a majority of the Circuit and County Court Judges of the Fifth Judicial Circuit that such judges share the responsibility for first appearance duty on weekends and holidays, and (3) matters other than first appearance hearings sometimes arise during weekend and holidays, it is upon consideration thereof and pursuant to Rule 2.215 of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED as follows:

1. When a single holiday falls within a regular work week the judge assigned to duty the preceding weekend shall also be assigned to duty on such holiday. In Lake and Marion counties, when a holiday falls on a Friday, the duty will switch at noon and the holiday will be split between the two judges on that day. It will be the responsibility of the morning duty judge to handle all bond hearings and shelters.

2. The Administrative Judges of Citrus, Hernando, and Sumter Counties shall enter an appropriate administrative order or otherwise establish policy to provide for availability of a duty judge during periods not covered by this order. In those counties, weekend duty shall begin at 5:00 P.M.

3. In Marion County, the duty judge shall be responsible, on a 24-hour basis, for handling emergency matters in the absence of the judge assigned to the division where the emergency arises, including at all times the courthouse is open.

4. Nothing in this Order shall preclude judges from trading or accepting responsibility for another judge's duty. Should any judge be unavailable for assigned duty it shall be his or her responsibility to contact another judge to be available.

5. It shall be required in Lake County that no later than 11:30 a.m. on the Friday preceding a weekend the on-duty judge shall deliver to the next on duty judge the cell phone and iPad in order to

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provide 24-hour emergency contact with such judge through the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

6. Any County Court Judge on weekend or holiday duty is hereby assigned and appointed to act as a circuit court judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit should an emergency arise requiring the actions of a circuit court judge during his or her duties.

7. The Circuit Court or County Court Judge responsible for weekend or holiday first appearance duty in those counties wherein any juvenile(s) are being held awaiting a judicial hearing pursuant to Chapter 39.F.S. shall also be responsible for conducting such juvenile hearing. It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Children and Family Services to notify the judge on duty of the need for such hearing.

8. The attached document contains the duty rotation schedule. **THIS DUTY SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE SEE THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT SCHEDULE.**

9. The provisions of this Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2026.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, this 9th day of Feb, 2026.



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

WEEKEND and HOLIDAY DUTY 2026

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JANUARY, 2026

LAKE COUNTY

MARION COUNTY

TRI-COUNTY

1 (Holiday)	Takac	Thompson	Scaglione
3,4	Monty	Brigham	Toner
10,11	Baxley	Rogers	Militello
17,18	Nimeth	Hodges	Vergara
19 (Holiday)	Nimeth	Hodges	Vergara
24,25	Pepperman	King	Carney
31	Rada	Cotton	Thomas

FEBRUARY, 2026

1	Rada	Cotton	Thomas
7,8	Curington	Bass	Daly
14,15	Davis	Herndon	Merritt Jr.
21,22	Mosley	Kissner Kwatkosky	Barbee
28	Jones	Youmans	Hatcher

MARCH, 2026

1	Jones	Youmans	Hatcher
7,8	Boylston	Mackey-Barnes	Bell
14,15	Welke	Craggs	Hitzemann
21,22	Takac	Jerald	Falvey
28, 29	New County Judge	McCourt	Fritton

APRIL, 2026

3 (Holiday)	New County Judge AM / New Circuit Judge PM	McCourt AM / Landt PM	Spaight
4,5	New Circuit Judge	Landt	Spaight
11,12	Monty	Thompson	Healis
18,19	Baxley	New County Judge	Eineman
25,26	Nimeth	Pickens	New Circuit Judge <small>(Howard)</small>

MAY, 2026

2,3	Pepperman	Brigham	Scaglione
9,10	Rada	Rogers	Smith
16,17	Curington	Hodges	New Sumter County Judge
23,24	Davis	King	Helm
25 (Holiday)	Davis	King	Helm
30, 31	Mosley	Cotton	Toner

JUNE, 2026

6,7	Jones	Bass	Militello
13,14	Boylston	Herndon	New Circuit Judge <small>(Vergara)</small>
20,21	Welke	Kissner Kwatkosky	Carney
27,28	Takac	Youmans	Thomas

JULY, 2026

3 (Holiday)	Takac AM / New County Judge PM	Youmans AM / Mackey-Barnes PM	Daly
4,5	New County Judge	Mackey-Barnes	Daly
11,12	New Circuit Judge	Craggs	Merritt Jr.
18,19	Monty	Jerald	Barbee
25,26	Baxley	McCourt	Hatcher

LAKE COUNTY**MARION COUNTY****TRI-COUNTY****AUGUST, 2026**

1,2	Nimeth	Landt	Bell
8,9	Pepperman	Thompson	Hitzemann
15,16	Rada	New County Judge	Falvey
22,23	Curington	Pickens	Fritton
29, 30	Davis	Brigham	Spaight

SEPTEMBER, 2026

5,6	Mosley	Rogers	Healis
7 (Holiday)	Mosley	Rogers	Healis
12,13	Jones	Hodges	Eineman
19,20	Boylston	King	New Circuit Judge <small>(Howard)</small>
21 (Holiday)	Boylston	King	New Circuit Judge <small>(Howard)</small>
26,27	Welke	Cotton	Scaglione

OCTOBER, 2026

3,4	Takac	Bass	Smith
10,11	New County Judge	Herndon	New Sumter County Judge
17,18	New Circuit Judge	Kissner Kwatkosky	Helm
24,25	Monty	Youmans	Toner
31	Baxley	Mackey-Barnes	Militello

NOVEMBER, 2026

1	Baxley	Mackey-Barnes	Militello
7,8	Nimeth	Craggs	New Circuit Judge <small>(Vergara)</small>
11 (Holiday)	Nimeth	Craggs	New Circuit Judge <small>(Vergara)</small>
14,15	Pepperman	Jerald	Carney
21,22	Rada	McCourt	Thomas
26 (Holiday)	Rada	McCourt	Daly
27 (Holiday)	Rada AM / Curington PM	McCourt AM / Landt PM	Daly
28, 29	Curington	Landt	Daly

DECEMBER, 2026

5,6	Davis	Thompson	Merritt Jr.
12,13	Mosley	New County Judge	Barbee
19,20	Jones	Pickens	Hatcher
24 (Holiday)	Jones	Pickens	Bell
25 (Holiday)	Jones AM / Boylston PM	Pickens AM / Brigham PM	Bell
26,27	Boylston	Brigham	Bell
31 (Holiday)	Boylston	Brigham	Hitzemann

JANUARY, 2027

1 (Holiday)	Boylston AM / Welke PM	Brigham AM / Rogers PM	Hitzemann
2,3	Welke	Rogers	Hitzemann