

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR CITRUS, HERNANDO, LAKE, MARION,
AND SUMTER COUNTIES**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. A-2026-13

**IN RE: THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COURT
FILINGS AND PROCEEDINGS, DISCLOSURE OF AI USE, THE
CERTIFICATION OF AI GENERATED INFORMATION, AND THE
PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

WHEREAS, the increased use of Artificial Intelligence ("AI") tools—generative and analytical—to assist in drafting, analyzing, translating, and formatting legal materials, raises important concerns including, but not limited to, confidentiality of the client, candor to the tribunal, diligence, compliance with court rules of procedure and with the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar; and

WHEREAS, Artificial Intelligence's use necessitates clear safeguards to ensure accuracy, confidentiality, transparency, and fairness; and,

WHEREAS, the integrity of court documents and proceedings are of great importance, and those who file or present to the Court documents must be aware that AI-generated information may be incorrect and must therefore take steps to verify the accuracy of all information contained in filings; and,

WHEREAS, 2.515(d)(2), Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration requires, as a fundamental duty of any filer of a document, both pro se litigants and attorneys, to read the document, and to (1) cite-check the cases to ensure they actually exist and (2) cite-check the cases to ensure they actually represent the legal propositions asserted; and,

WHEREAS, regardless of whether their filings are prepared with or without the assistance of AI, pro se litigants and attorneys cannot satisfy their review obligation by relying entirely upon AI to cite-check the cases cited in their filings; and,

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article V, Section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, Section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and 2.215, Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration, the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and the

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power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the following policies govern the use of AI in filings and proceedings within the Fifth Judicial Circuit:

1. Scope and Applicability

This Order applies to all filings and written materials submitted through the Florida Courts e-Filing Portal or otherwise presented to any division in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties. It applies to attorneys, self-represented litigants, court-appointed professionals, and justice partners.

2. Permissible AI Use (Human Oversight Required)

AI may be used to assist in preparation, researching, drafting pleadings, drafting documents, filing documents, and discovery. All information generated by AI **must have appropriate human oversight** that includes checking citations, verifying factual claims, and analyzing conclusions. All those using AI shall guard against including, but not limited to, potential plagiarism, confidentiality breaches, inaccurate information, false information, and the use of appropriate language. When AI has been used or assisted in the use of preparation, researching, drafting pleadings, drafting documents, filing documents, and/or discovery requests, the document shall identify the specific tool used in such manner.

3. Attorney Responsibility

An attorney may use AI technologies but only to the extent that the lawyer can reasonably guarantee compliance with the lawyer's ethical obligations. Attorneys shall be fully responsible for their work product and must comply with Florida law and the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, including Rule 4-1.1 (Competence), Rule 4-1.6 (Confidentiality), Rule 4-3.3 (Candor to Tribunal), Rule 4-5.1 (Supervision), and Rule 4-5.3 (Nonlawyer Supervision). (See In Re: Amendments to Rules Regulating the Florida Bar – Chapter 4, No. SC2024-0032 (Aug. 29, 2024), and Florida Bar Ethics Opinion 24-1 (Jan. 19, 2024)), or any changes, amendment, or supplement thereto.

4. Pro se Litigants Responsibility

Pro se litigants using AI shall be aware of the technology's propensity to generate fictitious legal authorities and must ensure

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such citations do not appear in any court filing. **Pro se litigants are required to follow the same procedural rules as attorneys and must be prepared to accept the consequences of any nondisclosure, procedural mistakes, inaccurate information, false facts, AI (digital) hallucinations, release of legally protected confidential information, and/or legal error.**

5. Confidentiality, Authenticity, and Data Security

The use of AI does not alter duties of candor, competence, confidentiality, and fairness. Attorneys and pro se litigants shall use their best efforts to verify the authenticity of information obtained by them using AI if there is a reasonable basis to question the authenticity of the information and have produced inaccurate information, legal error, and/or AI (digital) hallucinations. The AI tools for legal research, drafting documents, and assisting in the discovery process shall be consistent with Florida law, court rules of procedure, the rules governing professional responsibilities, and the obligation to protect confidential information. **Confidential or sealed information must not be entered into public AI systems without anonymization.**

6. Certification

Any attorney or pro se litigant submitting or presenting a document which used AI to generate or assist in creation of, or substance of, the document must include a certification that they have personally reviewed and verified the content's accuracy, specifically regarding factual statements, legal arguments, and case citations. All filings or submissions containing AI-generated content must disclose the use of AI **on the face of the document**, pleading, and/or filing and shall confirm the accuracy and reliability of the work by including the following:

The undersigned hereby certifies that artificial intelligence was used in the preparation of [TITLE OF DOCUMENT BEING FILED]. The undersigned has independently verified the accuracy of every citation to the law and/or the record, and the accuracy of any language drafted by generative artificial intelligence, including quotations, citations, paraphrased assertions, facts, and legal analysis.

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7. Prohibited Uses

Fabricated citations, undisclosed substantive AI drafting, improper disclosure of confidential information into public AI systems, AI-altered evidence without disclosure, or unverified AI legal analysis are prohibited.

8. AI-Generated or AI-Altered Evidence

Any such exhibit must include a Disclosure Statement and appropriate foundation.

9. Sanctions & Remedies

The failure to include the required disclosure/certification and/or the submission of false or misleading AI-generated content may be grounds for sanctions, as permitted by law. Sanctions may include: contempt; striking of pleadings or dismissal of actions; fines and/or the imposition of attorney's fees; and referral to The Florida Bar for disciplinary proceedings.

10. Court Personnel & Judicial Use

Court personnel may use Court-Approved AI with confidentiality safeguards.

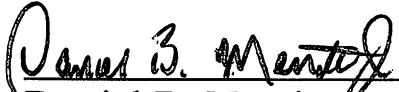
11. Effective Date

This Order is effective when signed and will remain in full force and effect until further order of the Chief Judge.

12. Severability

Any portion of this Order which becomes in conflict with any statute, Florida Supreme Court administrative order, rule of court, or subsequent court opinion having the effect of law, shall be deemed inoperative without impairing the remaining portions or provisions.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida on this 2nd of April 2026.



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