

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

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. A-2026-13-A

**IN RE: THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COURT
FILINGS AND PROCEEDINGS AND THE PROTECTION OF
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

WHEREAS, the increased use of Artificial Intelligence ("AI") tools—extractive, generative, and agentic—to assist in drafting, analyzing, translating, and formatting legal materials, has raised 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 work-product may be incorrect and must therefore take steps to verify the accuracy of all information contained in filings; and,

WHEREAS, SC2026-0673 IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.515, was issued by the Supreme Court of Florida on May 28, 2026 amending Rule 2.515(d)(2) to require the signer of a filing to represent that the legal authorities identified in the filing exist and are accurately cited, and expressly authorized courts to impose sanctions for filings inconsistent with that representation; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court of Florida Administrative Order AOSC26-12 IN RE: REPRESENTATIONS BY SIGNERS OF FILINGS, was issued May 28, 2026, in which the Supreme Court of Florida determined that circuit courts may not impose local disclosure or certification requirements concerning the use of artificial intelligence

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in court filings and directed courts to rely upon Rule 2.515(d)(2) and its enforcement provisions;

WHEREAS, AOSC26-12, expressly recognizes the authority of courts to educate court users regarding the benefits and risks associated with artificial intelligence, to warn users concerning the consequences of inaccurate filings, and to govern the use of artificial intelligence by court personnel; and

WHEREAS, the integrity of court proceedings depends upon the accuracy of information submitted to the Court and the independent professional judgment of attorneys, self-represented litigants, court personnel, and all others participating in the judicial process; and

WHEREAS, it is the interest of the efficient administration of justice that the court educate court users regarding the responsible use of artificial intelligence, to promote the accuracy and integrity of court filings and proceedings, to protect confidential and legally protected information, and to establish guidance regarding the use of artificial intelligence by court personnel; and

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

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2. AI Use is Permissible

A. Attorneys, self-represented litigants, and all other filers are reminded that Rule 2.515(d)(2), Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, require each signer of a filing to represent that they have read the document, that there are good grounds supporting the document, and that the legal authorities identified in the filing exist and are accurately cited.

B. The Court strongly cautions all persons utilizing artificial intelligence in connection with court filings, legal research, or litigation support to independently verify all factual assertions, quotations, legal authorities, citations, and legal analysis before submission to the Court.

C. The use of artificial intelligence does not diminish the professional, ethical, or legal responsibilities of attorneys, parties, or other persons appearing before the Court.

D. Nothing in this Administrative Order shall be construed to create any disclosure, certification, or verification requirement concerning the use of artificial intelligence beyond those imposed by applicable law, court rule, or order of the Florida Supreme Court.

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 such citations do not appear in any court filing. **Pro se litigants are required to follow the same procedural rules as attorneys and**

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must be prepared to accept the consequences of any 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. Prohibited Uses

Fabricated citations, improper disclosure of confidential information into public AI systems, and AI-altered evidence without disclosure are prohibited.

7. AI-Generated or AI-Altered Evidence

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

8. Sanctions & Remedies

Attorneys and self-represented litigants are reminded that Rule 2.515(d)(2), Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, provides that:

“The Court may, on its own motion or the motion of a party, impose sanctions for any filing inconsistent with this representation after providing the signer notice and an opportunity to be heard. Such sanctions may include reprimand, contempt, striking of the document, dismissal of proceedings, costs, attorneys’ fees, or other sanctions.”

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9. Court Personnel & Judicial Use

A. Court employees may utilize approved artificial intelligence tools only in a manner consistent with policies established by the Office of the State Courts Administrator, the Circuit, and any applicable court technology, cybersecurity, records management, and confidentiality requirements.

B. Court personnel shall not rely upon artificial intelligence as a substitute for independent review, professional judgment, or legal analysis.

C. Court personnel shall not enter confidential, sealed, exempt, or otherwise protected information into artificial intelligence systems except as specifically authorized by applicable policy, law, or directive.

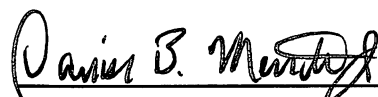
10. Effective Date

This Administrative Order supersedes Administrative Order A-2026-13 and shall take effect June 15, 2026 at 12:01 a.m.

11. 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. This Order is intended to comport with any amendment to statutes or rules which may, from time to time, renumber the statute(s) or rule(s) cited herein (chapter, number, section, etc.). This order shall be deemed to comply with such changes to chapter, number, section, etc.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida on this 11th of June 2026.



Daniel B. Merritt, Jr

Chief Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit