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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER: A-2026-28-A

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY DUTY 2027
(Amended to add Judges Small, Smith, and Vickers to 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, 2027.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, this 10th day of Nov., 2026.

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

WEEKEND and HOLIDAY DUTY 2027

	LAKE COUNTY	MARION COUNTY	TRI-COUNTY
JANUARY, 2027			
1 (Holiday)	Boylston/Welke PM	Brigham AM/Rogers PM	Hitzemann
2,3	Welke	Rogers	Hitzemann
9,10	Takac	Hodges	Morris
16,17	Small	King	New Circuit Judge
18 (Holiday)	Small	King	New Circuit Judge
23,24	Toti	Cotton	Spaight
30,31	Monty	Bass	Healis
FEBRUARY, 2027			
6,7	Baxley	Herndon	Eineman
13,14	Nimeth	Kissner Kwatkosky	Vickers
20,21	Pepperman	Youmans	Scaglione
27,28	Rada	Mackey-Barnes	Smith
MARCH, 2027			
6,7	Curington	Craggs	Senn
13,14	Singeltary	Jerald	Helm
20,21	Mosley	Rogers	Toner
26 (Holiday)	Mosley AM/Jones PM	Rogers AM/Hodges PM	Militello
27,28	Jones	Hodges	Militello
APRIL, 2027			
3,4	Boylston	Smith	Lambert
10,11	Welke	Pickens	Carney
17,18	Takac	Thompson	Thomas
24,25	Small	McCourt	Daly
MAY, 2027			
1,2	Toti	Brigham	Merritt Jr.
8,9	Monty	Landt	Barbee
15,16	Baxley	King	Hatcher
22,23	Nimeth	Cotton	Bell
29,30	Pepperman	Bass	Hitzemann
31 (Holiday)	Pepperman	Bass	Hitzemann
JUNE, 2027			
5,6	Rada	Herndon	Morris
12,13	Curington	Kissner Kwatkosky	New Circuit Judge
19,20	Singeltary	Youmans	Spaight
26,27	Mosley	Mackey-Barnes	Healis
JULY, 2027			
3,4	Jones	Craggs	Eineman
5 (Holiday)	Jones	Craggs	Eineman
10,11	Boylston	Jerald	Vickers
17,18	Welke	McCourt	Scaglione
24,25	Takac	Landt	Smith
31	Small	Smith	Senn

AUGUST, 2027

	LAKE COUNTY	MARION COUNTY	TRI-COUNTY
1	Small	Smith	Senn
7,8	Toti	Pickens	Helm
14,15	Monty	Thompson	Toner
21,22	Baxley	Brigham	Militello
28,29	Nimeth	Rogers	Lambert

SEPTEMBER, 2027

4,5	Pepperman	Hodges	Carney
6 (Holiday)	Pepperman	Hodges	Carney
11,12	Rada	King	Thomas
18,19	Curington	Pickens	Daly
25,26	Singeltary	Smith	Merritt, Jr.

OCTOBER, 2027

1 Holiday)	Singeltary AM/Mosley PM	Smith AM/Herndon PM	Barbee
2,3	Mosley	Herndon	Barbee
9,10	Jones	McCourt	Hatcher
11 (Holiday)	Jones	McCourt	Hatcher
16,17	Boylston	Rogers	Bell
23,24	Welke	Mackey-Barnes	Hitzemann
30,31	Takac	Craggs	Morris

NOVEMBER, 2027

6,7	Small	Jerald	New Circuit Judge
11 (Holiday)	Small	Jerald	New Circuit Judge
13,14	Toti	Brigham	Spaight
20,21	Monty	Cotton	Healis
25 (Holiday)	Monty	Cotton	Eineman
26 (Holiday)	Monty AM/Baxley PM	Cotton AM/Bass PM	Eineman
27,28	Baxley	Bass	Eineman

DECEMBER, 2027

4,5	Nimeth	Landt	Vickers
11,12	Pepperman	Thompson	Scaglione
18,19	Rada	Kissner Kwatkosky	Smith
23 (Holiday)	Rada	Kissner Kwatkosky AM/ Youmans PM	Senn
24 (Holiday)	Rada AM/Curington PM	Kissner Kwatkosky AM/ Youmans PM	Senn
25, 26	Curington	Youmans	Senn
27 (Holiday)	Curington	Youmans	Senn
31 (Holiday)	Curington AM/Singeltary PM	Youmans AM/Smith PM	Helm
