IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2023-08

IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF BAKER ACT CASES TO THE PROBATE DIVISION IN DUVAL COUNTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the chief judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the chief judge "shall, considering available resources, ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within that circuit" and shall develop an administrative plan "capable of effecting the prompt administration of cases"; and

WHEREAS, Baker Act cases have been assigned to the Circuit Civil Court; and

WHEREAS, according to section 394.453(1)(a), Florida Statutes, the Baker Act results from the Legislature's intent to reduce the occurrence, severity, duration, and disabling aspects of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Probate Division has more resources to address issues involving mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders and is capable administering Baker Act cases in a prompt and efficient manner.

NOW THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as the Chief Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit and pursuant to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, it is

ORDERED:

(1) The Duval County Clerk of Court is directed to assign to the Probate Division all cases filed pursuant to the Baker Act including petitions for writ of habeas corpus.

(2) This Administrative Order No. 2023-08 shall be recorded by the Clerk of Court in the Official Records of Duval County, shall take effect immediately, and shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Court.

Doc # 2023051468, OR BK 20613 Page 469,
Number Pages: 2
Recorded 03/15/2023 01:47 PM,
JODY PHILLIPS CLERK CIRCUIT COURT DUVAL COUNTY
RECORDING $0.00

DONE at Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida this 15th day of March 2023.

MARK H. MAHON
CHIEF JUDGE

Copies to:

All Judges in the Fourth Judicial Circuit
All Magistrates in the Fourth Judicial Circuit
The Honorable Thomas M. Beverly, Administrative Judge, Probate Division
The Honorable Steven Whittington, Administrative Judge, Clay County
The Honorable James Daniel, Administrative Judge, Nassau County
The Honorable Jody Phillips, Clerk of Court, Duval County
The Honorable Melissa W. Nelson, Esq., State Attorney
The Honorable Charles G. Cofer, Esq., Public Defender
The Honorable Jason R. Teal, General Counsel, City of Jacksonville
Eve Janocko, Fourth Judicial Circuit Trial Court Administrator
Claude T. Colvin, Deputy Trial Court Administrator
Mike Smith, Court Technology Officer
Cecilia F. Birk, Court Counsel
Janet Abel, Office of Regional Conflict Counsel
Judicial Staff Attorneys, Fourth Judicial Circuit
Fourth Judicial Circuit Law Library, Duval County
The Jacksonville Bar Association
Christopher Douglas, Senior Business Strategist, Clerk of Court, Duval County
Laura Lentini, Assistant to Court Counsel
Jacksonville Bar Association