

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2026-14

**IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGES AS ACTING COUNTY JUDGES,
 AND
 APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY JUDGES AS ACTING CIRCUIT JUDGES**

WHEREAS, it is necessary from time to time for the prompt dispatch of the business of the circuit and county courts, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties, that circuit judges be temporarily assigned to duty in the county court and that county judges likewise be temporarily assigned to duty in the circuit court; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that county judges in Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties proceed temporarily and be assigned to duty in circuit court in Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties; and

WHEREAS, each county judge assigned to temporary duty as a circuit judge is authorized to perform "any judicial service a circuit judge can perform." *State ex rel. Treadwell v. Hall*, 274 So. 2d 537 (Fla. 1973); and

WHEREAS, consistent with *Physicians Healthcare Plans, Inc. v. Pfeiffer*, 846 So. 2d 1129 (Fla. 2003), this order is limited in duration, it does not divest a court of jurisdiction, it does not assign a county judge to exclusively circuit work, nor does it assign a circuit judge to exclusively county work; and

WHEREAS, in this time of crowded dockets and extremely limited resources in the state courts system, it is necessary to utilize judicial resources in a cost-effective manner to maximize the efficient administration of justice. *See, e.g., State v. Brady*, 985 So. 2d 656, 665 (Fla. 2d DCA

2008), in which the appellate court relied upon a similar order to find that a circuit court judge had jurisdiction as an acting county court judge to hear a misdemeanor case.

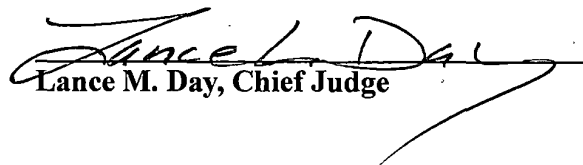
NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with Article V, §2, Florida Constitution, rule 2.215, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, and §43.26, Florida Statutes, it is

ORDERED:

1. I do hereby assign and designate each circuit court judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, to proceed when needed to the county courts in Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties, to hear, conduct, try, and determine county court cases and issues that are brought before the judge as a temporary judge of the county court, and thereafter to dispose of all matters considered by the judge, including but not limited to emergency and advisory duty matters from July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, as needed and directed by the Chief Judge.
2. I further assign and designate each county court judge of Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties to proceed when needed to the circuit court, Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, to hear, conduct, try, and determine circuit court cases and issues that are brought before the judge as a temporary judge of the circuit court, and thereafter to dispose of all matters considered by the judge, including but not limited to emergency and advisory duty matters and signing of all warrants including but not limited to warrants and interception orders under Chapter 934, Florida Statutes, from July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, as needed and directed by the Chief Judge.

3. Each judge, under and by virtue of the authority hereof, is vested with all the powers and prerogatives conferred by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida upon the judges of the courts to which each judge is hereby temporarily assigned.
4. This administrative order shall be in effect from July 1, 2026 at 12:00 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2026.

DONE at Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, this 30th day of June 2026.


Lance M. Day, Chief Judge

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Copies to:

All Judges, Fourth Judicial Circuit
The Honorable Tara Green, Clerk of Court, Clay County
The Honorable Jody Phillips, Clerk of Court, Duval County
The Honorable Mitch Keiter, Clerk of Court, Nassau County
The Honorable Melissa Nelson, State Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit
The Honorable Charlie Cofer, Public Defender, Fourth Judicial Circuit
The Honorable Michelle Cook, Sheriff, Clay County Sheriff's Office
The Honorable T.K. Waters, Sheriff, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
The Honorable Bill Leeper, Sheriff, Nassau County Sheriff's Office
All Judicial Assistants, Fourth Judicial Circuit
Allison Luker, Chief Executive Officer, Clerk of Court Duval County
Eve Janocko, Trial Court Administrator, Fourth Judicial Circuit
Claude T. Colvin, Chief Deputy Court Administrator, Fourth Judicial Circuit
Mike Smith, Court Technology Officer, Fourth Judicial Circuit
Shannon L. Shaw, General Counsel, Fourth Judicial Circuit
Gaby Young, Chief Legal Advisor, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Judicial Staff Attorneys, Fourth Judicial Circuit
Fourth Judicial Circuit Law Library, Duval County
Christopher Douglas, Deputy Director Strategic Improvement, Clerk of Court, Duval County
Austin Eler, Senior Manager, Duval County Clerk of the Court
Laura Lentini, Assistant to General Counsel, Fourth Judicial Circuit