

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN
AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. III-94-E-4
Replaces III-94-B-4

IN RE: CHANGE OF VENUE
FOR DRUG COURT CRIMINAL
CASES

WHEREAS, the Legislature has given authority to the court and criminal justice authorities to refer substance abuse impaired offenders to service providers for assessment and treatment, Fla. Stat. 397.705, as created by CH. 93-39, Law of Florida, and Fla. Stat. 948.08(6);

WHEREAS, the concept of treating non-violent offenders who are drug-involved through a drug court diversion program in order to reduce addiction and crime is strongly supported by the Eleventh and Seventeenth Circuits (Dade and Broward Counties);

WHEREAS, in some instances Broward County residents are arrested in Dade County;

WHEREAS, in order to be effective, treatment through a drug court diversion program requires close, direct supervision by the Drug Court Judge; and the manageability of the offender has been found to be much better accommodated by locating treatment in the circuit where the offender resides; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Courts of Broward and Dade County have agreed to accept venue of these cases when they involve residents of their circuit who have been arrested in the neighboring circuit;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, it is hereby:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

1. That Drug Court Judges of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit may, with the consent of the State Attorney and the defendant, pursuant to Fla. Stat. 910.03, order a change of venue for Drug Court clients who are Dade County residents, if such a change is in the best interest of community safety and substance abuse rehabilitation.

2. That Drug Court Judges of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit may hear and determine cases originating in Dade County, involving clients who are residents of Broward County, and which are accepted into the drug court diversion program in Dade County, where a change in venue to the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit has been properly effected.

DONE AND ORDERED at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 15th day of February, 1994, nunc pro tunc January 25, 1994.

/s/DALE ROSS
DALE ROSS, Chief Judge