

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

Administrative Order No. 2018-14-Crim

**SECOND AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING STATE
OF FLORIDA V. NIKOLAS JACOB CRUZ, CASE NO. 18-001958 CF10A**

(a) 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 the power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice.

(b) Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215 (b) (3) states the Chief Judge “shall, considering available resources, ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within [this] circuit.”

(c) The Court finds that the recently filed matter of *State of Florida v. Nikolas Jacob Cruz*, Case Number 18-001958 CF10A is a high-profile case requiring effective judicial management, oversight by a single judge, and the implementation of the Procedures for Special Interest/High Profile Proceedings set forth in Administrative Order 2018-3-Gen Governing Media.

(d) The above-styled case was assigned to The Honorable Elizabeth Scherer (Circuit Criminal Division FJ) as a result of random assignment by the Clerk of the Courts.

(e) In accordance with the authority vested in the Chief Judge by Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

(1) The case of *State of Florida v. Nikolas Jacob Cruz*, Case No. 18-001958 CF10A shall not be reassigned to any other judge for any reason except upon the following circumstances: (i) disqualification of the trial judge pursuant to Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.330; (ii) *sua sponte* order of recusal by the presiding judge; or (iii) an order from the Chief Judge.

(2) All matters in the case of *State of Florida v. Nikolas Jacob Cruz*, Case No. 18-001958 CF10A, excluding the request for warrants, shall be heard by Judge Scherer, Division (FJ).

(3) In the event Judge Scherer is unavailable, the matter shall be presented to one of Judge Scherer's alternates for resolution, if available. If all of Judge Scherer's alternates are unavailable, the matter shall be presented to the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Criminal Division for resolution. If the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Criminal Division is unavailable, the matter shall be presented to the Chief Judge.

(4) Any law enforcement agency requesting a warrant in this case shall contact the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Criminal Division. The Administrative Judge of the Circuit Criminal Division or his designee shall handle requests for warrants in this case.

(5) The Trial Court Administrator or her designee may implement the Procedures for Special Interest/High Profile Proceedings as set forth in Administrative Order 2018-3-Gen Governing Media.

(6) This Administrative Order supersedes and vacates any administrative order that is in conflict with the provisions stated herein.

(7) This Administrative Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of this Court.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 20th day of February 2018 *nunc pro tunc* to February 19, 2018.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge