

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

Administrative Order 2018-79-PRC

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REQUIRING
FINGERPRINTING OF GUARDIANS
FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

(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) Section 744.3135, Florida Statutes, authorizes credit and criminal investigations for nonprofessional and professional guardians, which includes the use of fingerprints.

(d) The Federal Bureau of Investigation no longer processes hard copy applicant fingerprint cards and, as a result, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement no longer accepts such cards.

(e) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge pursuant to 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) All non-professional proposed guardians shall submit fingerprints electronically at the time of his or her initial application to be appointed guardian. All other documents required by the court to complete a credit and criminal background investigation shall be submitted directly to the Clerk of the Court.

(2) Professional guardians, including all employees of professional guardians, are required to undergo criminal history record checks as set forth in section 744.3135, Florida Statutes. Professional guardians, including all employees of professional guardians, shall submit fingerprints electronically and are only required to resubmit

fingerprints for a criminal history record check to be performed pursuant to section 744.3135, Florida Statutes, if the fingerprints are not retained by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. It is the responsibility of the professional guardian and their respective employees to determine whether fingerprints need to be resubmitted in order to comply with the requirements of section 744.3135, Florida Statutes. All other documents required by the Court to complete the credit and criminal investigations pursuant to section 744.3135, Florida Statutes, must be submitted no later than January 15th every year.

(3) This Administrative Order supersedes and vacates Administrative Order 2012-50-PRC.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 6th day of September, 2018.

/s/Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge