

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

In re: Opioid and Stimulant Use Awareness

WHEREAS, substance abuse and the impacts of drug addiction have had far-reaching, negative effects on our state, including the courts and the people of Broward County; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the problem has grown due to COVID-19, resulting in more lives lost and impaired; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the opioid epidemic, stimulant use has reached an epidemic scale and no FDA-approved medications are available to treat stimulant use disorder; and

WHEREAS, the use of stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamines is of growing concern nationwide and in Florida, as is the prevalence of prescription stimulants misuse; and

WHEREAS, misuse of one drug often cascades to other forms of substance abuse -- by example, about 80 percent of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); and

WHEREAS, in addition to the impacts of drug abuse on human health and welfare, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the U.S. is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement, and NIDA estimates overall substance abuse costs to our nation as over \$600 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, cases involving individuals with substance use disorders are seen across all justice settings in Florida; and

WHEREAS, drug use trends and impacts represent a fast-moving landscape and it is incumbent upon agencies and organizations involved with such matters to stay current on related topics; and

WHEREAS, based on these and related concerns, Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Canady has issued the attached proclamation declaring September 2021 as Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Awareness Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Jack Tuter, Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida do hereby

proclaim that September 2021 shall be known within the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit as a month of awareness, training, and action regarding opioids, stimulants, and treatment for related substance use disorders. I call upon judicial officers and court staff members to increase their awareness about opioid and stimulant addiction and how such awareness can best be used in addressing the cases before them.

DONE IN CHAMBERS on this Sixth Day of August in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-One.

/s/ Jack Tuter _____
Jack Tuter
Chief Judge

Supreme Court of Florida

PROCLAMATION

In re: Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Awareness

WHEREAS, substance abuse and drug addiction have far-reaching, destructive impacts on the nation and our state; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of drug abuse has been exacerbated by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and U.S. drug overdose deaths soared almost 30% in 2020, to a record high of 93,331, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the opioid epidemic, stimulant use has reached an epidemic scale, with rapidly growing concerns about stimulant misuse, addiction, and overdoses, especially from the use of cocaine and methamphetamines; and

WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths are a persistent and urgent public health problem in the U.S. and Florida, and from 2012 through 2019, the rate of U.S. drug overdose deaths involving cocaine increased more than three-fold while those involving psychostimulants with abuse potential increased more than six-fold, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon judges and court staff members, particularly those serving in problem-solving courts and family courts, to understand the basics of addiction, its impacts on the brain, changes occurring in drug use trends, the highly addictive nature of stimulants, standards for treatment, and best practices, as well as legal implications in court responses to individuals with drug addictions and disorders;

WHEREAS, the need for cross-system collaboration and development of partnerships between justice system and other stakeholders has never been greater;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Charles T. Canady, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby proclaim that September 2021 shall be known within the State Courts System as a month of awareness, training, and action regarding opioids, stimulants, and treatment for related substance use disorders. I call upon judicial officers and court staff members to increase their efforts to understand the effects of opioid use disorder and stimulant use disorder throughout the judicial system and in the cases before them.

DONE IN CHAMBERS on this Second Day of August in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-One.


Chief Justice Charles T. Canady

ATTEST:


John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

