

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

Administrative Order 2020-45-Crim

COURT ORDERED REFERRALS TO RECOVERY RESIDENCES

(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 397.487, Florida Statutes provides for the voluntary certification of recovery residences to further the state’s legitimate interest in protecting persons suffering from addiction who are living in a recovery residence while receiving treatment or after completing treatment.

(d) 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, effective January 4, 2021:**

(1) All judges who order or refer a litigant to a recovery residence (commonly referred to as halfway houses or sober living facilities) shall make such referrals or orders only to those entities holding a valid certificate of compliance as provided in section 397.487, Florida Statutes, and which are actively managed by a certified recovery residence administrator as provided in section 397.4871, Florida Statutes.

(2) Attorneys requesting a court ordered referral to a recovery residence should certify to the presiding judge that the entity in question has the above certification credentials. An up to date list of all certified recovery residences can be located by visiting the following web page (<http://farronline.info/providers#providers-table-pagination=1>).

(3) Judges may order or refer individuals to entities not satisfying the certification requirements set forth in Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, and as referenced in paragraph (1) above, only in exceptional circumstances.

(4) The future effective date of this Administrative Order affords entities without the credentials referenced herein and who wish to continue receiving court ordered referrals from the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit sufficient time to obtain the appropriate certification.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 28th day of May, 2020.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge