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

Administrative Order No. 2017-48-CO (Amendment 1)

ESTABLISHING COUNTY COURT JUDICIAL RELIEF

(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 General Practice and 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) In accordance with the authority vested in the Chief Judge by Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

(1) County court judges assigned to the central courthouse shall provide relief coverage pursuant to the schedule distributed by the Administrative Judge of the County Court.

(2) County judges assigned to a satellite courthouse location shall provide relief coverage for the other county judges assigned to that same satellite courthouse location. However, the relief judge may be called upon to handle any coverage at a satellite courthouse at the direction of the Administrative Judge of the County Court.

(3) A judge needing relief coverage shall contact initially the Administrative Judge of the County Court, or, if not available, the Chief Judge. The Administrative Judge of the County Court, or, if appropriate, the Chief Judge, shall contact the relief judge to arrange for appropriate coverage.

(4) Relief coverage, as determined by the Administrative Judge of the County Court, or, if appropriate, the Chief Judge, is for emergency situations. Emergency situations are those matters which require imminent action by the judge and do not include such matters as annual leave, conference attendance, bar functions, or non-emergency, personal, or family matters.

(5) At any time relief coverage is not provided pursuant to this Administrative Order or if a judge is absent for any other reason, it is that judge's responsibility for securing the services of another judge to hear those matters which are set during the judge's absence.

(6) County court judges providing relief coverage shall not set during his or her scheduled relief period jury trials or any matters which cannot be reset or which require an attorney or witness to travel to Broward County from a location other than Miami-Dade County or Palm Beach County. The Clerk of the Courts shall not set any fixed dockets, i.e., arraignments or calendar calls during relief week for the assigned judge. The relief judge shall only set those matters which can be reset without inconvenience to the attorneys and/or litigants.

(7) Relief judges shall be available for any and all responsibilities which may arise for a county court judge, including without limitation first appearance coverage.

(8) The failure of any county court judge to be available for assigned relief coverage duty shall be considered neglect of duty under Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Procedure 2.215(h).

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on this 7th day of June, 2021.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge