Supreme Court of Florida

PROCLAMATION

In re: Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Awareness

WHEREAS, substance use disorders resulting from drug use and misuse are taking an enormous toll on the lives of millions across the state and nation, with 46.3 million people having a substance use disorder in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the occurrence of drug overdoses and overdose deaths from opioid and stimulant use and misuse have surged, resulting in an urgent public health crisis, with more than 150 people dying every day from overdoses related to synthetic opioids alone (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic has been exacerbated by increased access to and use of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine; and

WHEREAS, an alarming amount of unintentional polysubstance use is occurring where drugs are mixed or cut with other substances, like fentanyl and xylazine, without the knowledge of affected individuals; and

WHEREAS, mental health issues can result from the use of certain drugs, like newer forms of methamphetamines such as P2P Meth, and dual diagnoses of substance use disorder and mental illness are increasingly occurring; and

WHEREAS the need for collaboration and continued development of partnerships between the justice system and other stakeholders is vital.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Carlos G. Muñiz, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby proclaim that September 2023 shall be known within the State Courts System as a month of awareness, training, and action regarding opioids, stimulants, and substance use disorder treatment and recovery. I call upon judicial officers and court staff members to increase efforts to understand and address the effects of these disorders throughout the judicial system and in the cases before them.

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

Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñiz

ATTEST:

John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
SAT CITO SI RECTE