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

Order Number 2012-37-Gen

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ESTABISHING
PROCEDURES FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER TO SECURE MEDICAL RECORDS

(a) 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."
(b) Chapter 406, Fla. Stat., governs the duties of medical examiners, including but not limited to determining the manner or cause of death for an individual.
(c) The Medical Examiner for Broward County at times is required to secure medical records of an individual to assist in the investigation of an individual's death.
(d) The Medical Examiner for Broward County requires an expedited procedure to secure medical records so that his or her investigation may be completed in a timely manner.
(e) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is ordered:

(1) If the Medical Examiner for Broward County files an action to authorize his or her access to medical records of a decedent it shall be assigned to the division for the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Civil Division.
(2) Upon the filing of the action, the Medical Examiner for Broward shall provide a courtesy copy of the court records to the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Civil Division so that an expedited hearing may be held unless the interested parties agree to waive the necessity of a hearing.
(3) This Administrative Order vacates and supersedes Administrative Order III-03-M-2.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on

May 11, 2012.

s/ Peter M. Weinstein
Peter M. Weinstein, Chief Judge