

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

Administrative Order 2026-35-Crim

**ASSIGNING CIRCUIT CRIMINAL JUDGES
TO ALTERNATE COVERAGE**

(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 “ensures the efficient and proper administration of all courts within [this] circuit, considering available resources.”

(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) This Administrative Order shall govern the assignment of judges to preside as alternates to each other for circuit criminal matters.

(2) The alternate assignments are in the following groups with each judge in the group an alternate to the other judges in the group:

- i. Judges Martin S. Fein, Michael I. Rothschild, Frank Ledee, and George Odom, Jr.;
- ii. Judges Ernest A. Kollra, Jr., Peter Holden, Lorena V. Mastrarrigo, and Bernard I. Bober;
- iii. Judges Michael Lynch, Michael Davis, Francis Viamontes, Barbara R. Duffy, Edward H. Merrigan, Jr., and Susan L. Alspector;
- iv. Judges Andrew L. Siegel, Ari Abraham Porth, Michael A. Usan, Thomas J. Coleman, and Tim Bailey.

(3) If the assigned judge is not in the courthouse and an emergency matter arises, the matter shall be presented to an alternate judge for resolution. The alternate judge shall review the matter to determine if in fact an emergency exists that would require

immediate attention. If the alternate judge determines the matter is an emergency, he or she shall proceed to enter any orders or warrants as are necessary. If the alternate judge determines the matter is not an emergency, he or she shall forward the pleading/paper/warrant and court file to the assigned judge. The alternate judge shall give priority to the signing of warrants and shall expedite the signing of warrants over any and all other duties and responsibilities as a criminal division judge.

(4) If all alternate judges are unavailable, the matter shall then be presented to the criminal duty judge for resolution. If all alternate judges and criminal duty judge are unavailable, the matter shall be presented to the Administrative Judge for the Circuit Criminal Division for resolution. If all alternate judges, criminal duty judge, and the Administrative Judge for the Circuit Criminal Division are unavailable, the matter shall be presented to the Chief Judge for resolution. If none of the foregoing are available, the attorney, law enforcement officer, or probation officer shall go to the Office of the Trial Court Administrator for assistance in locating a judge.

(5) This Administrative Order supersedes and vacates Administrative Order 2023-18-Crim (Amendment 3).

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 10th day of September, 2026.

/s/ Carol-Lisa Phillips
Carol-Lisa Phillips, Chief Judge