

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2004-22-03

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND  
FOR ORANGE AND OSCEOLA  
COUNTIES, FLORIDA

**AMENDED ORDER GOVERNING THE APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF GENERAL  
MAGISTRATES FOR CONDUCTING MENTAL HEALTH PROCEEDINGS  
IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**WHEREAS**, an increasing number of proceedings for involuntary placement of individuals suffering mental illness are brought before the Circuit Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the interests of the public and the litigants require a flexible and speedy resolution of such matters and the time and resources of the Court are limited; and

**WHEREAS**, section 394.467(6)(a) 2., Florida Statutes, makes provision for the Court to appoint a General Magistrate to preside at proceedings for involuntary placements; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the crowded court schedules of the Circuit Court, it is necessary and in the interest of justice for the Court to utilize General Magistrates to preside at such proceedings;

**NOW THEREFORE, I**, Frederick J. Lauten, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, hereby order the following, effective **immediately**:

1. Pursuant to section 394.467(6)(a) 2., Florida Statutes, all General Magistrates employed by the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, being members of the Florida Bar and duly sworn, are hereby appointed to serve under the direction and at the pleasure of the Circuit Court as the Court's representatives in conducting hearings for involuntary placement of persons who are found to be mentally ill. Said hearings may be conducted at Florida Hospital South, Orlando, Florida, at Aspire (at Lakeside), Orlando, Florida, at Central Florida Behavioral

Hospital, Orlando, Florida, at University Behavioral, Orlando, Florida, at Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona, Orlando, Florida, at Park Place Behavioral, Kissimmee, Florida, and at Osceola Regional Hospital, Kissimmee, Florida.

2. Said General Magistrates shall have the power and duty to set hearings and to prepare written findings and recommendations to the Court for entry of Orders pursuant to the provisions set forth in section 394.467(6), Florida Statutes.

3. At the conclusion of a hearing conducted by a General Magistrate, the findings and recommendations shall be reduced to writing and submitted to the Court having jurisdiction of the case for the execution of an Order either ratifying and confirming the findings of the General Magistrate or such Order as the Court deems appropriate.

Administrative Order 2004-22-02 is vacated and set aside and has been incorporated and/or amended herein. Vacating an Administrative Order that vacates a prior Order does not revive the prior Order.

**DONE AND ORDERED** at Orlando, Florida, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick J. Lauten  
Chief Judge

Copies provided to:

Clerk of Court, Orange County  
Clerk of Court, Osceola County  
General E-Mail Distribution List  
<http://www.ninthcircuit.org>