

**IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. S-2001-027

VOLUNTARY TRIAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Section 44.104, Florida Statutes, authorizes voluntary trial resolution of certain civil disputes; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to provide procedures for such voluntary trial resolution proceedings when such proceedings are scheduled in a court facility; it is therefore

ORDERED:

1. All civil disputes may be resolved by voluntary trial resolution, except as provided in section 44.104, Florida Statutes.

2. If a controversy is submitted to voluntary trial resolution prior to a lawsuit being filed, the clerk shall assign the case randomly to a General Civil Division. If a controversy is submitted to voluntary trial resolution after a lawsuit has been filed, any judicial action required shall be taken by the judge assigned to the division in which the lawsuit is pending.

3. If the agreement of the parties provides for the voluntary trial resolution proceeding to be held in a court facility, the trial resolution judge shall coordinate scheduling with the courthouse facility coordinator. All proceedings involving a trial resolution judge that occur in any courthouse or other public facility shall be open to the public.

4. If the agreement between the parties provides that the trial resolution proceeding will include a jury trial, then such proceeding shall be tried like other civil jury trials. Provisions for a jury pool, bailiff, and court clerk shall be made upon request. Requests for a jury pool, bailiff, and court clerk should be made by the voluntary trial resolution judge to the judicial assistant of the

presiding judge of the case.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, this 3rd
day of May, 2001.

\s \ F. Dennis Alvarez
F. Dennis Alvarez, Chief Judge

Original to: Richard Ake, Clerk of Circuit Court
copies to: All Circuit Civil Judges
Lt. Randall Latimer, Court Services, Sheriff's Office
Kathy Regan, Director, General Civil Division, Clerk's Office
Cindy Williams, Jury Services