

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2021-075
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2010-090)**

**MEDICAL TREATMENT AND HEALTH CARE
ADVANCE DIRECTIVE PROCEEDINGS**

In light of the establishment of Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health and Trust Division “B,” it is necessary for the proper and efficient administration of justice to update the assignment provisions governing proceedings for expedited judicial intervention concerning medical treatment and health care advance directives. By the power vested in the chief judge under Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is ORDERED:

1. Assignment of Cases

The Clerk of the Circuit Court (clerk) will assign all petitions under Florida Probate Rule 5.900 (Expedited Judicial Intervention Concerning Medical Treatment Procedures) or Chapter 765 (Health Care Advance Directives) of the Florida Statutes, or both, to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health, and Trust Divisions “A” and “B” based on a 5:3 ratio.

2. Reassignment of Case upon Judge’s Disqualification

If either of the judges presiding in Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health and Trust Division “A” or “B” enters an order of disqualification, the clerk will reassign the case to the other division. If, after such reassignment, the successor judge in the Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health and Trust Division enters an order of disqualification, the clerk will reassign the case to the chief judge or the chief judge’s designee.

3. Emergency Petitions

Application for emergency relief in any petition under Rule 5.900 or Chapter 765, Florida Statutes, must be made to the presiding judge of the division in which the case is pending. If either of the judges presiding in Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health

and Trust Division “A” or “B” is absent from the courthouse, then emergency application for any petition will be presented to the judge of the other division. If the judges presiding in Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health and Trust Division “A” and “B” are both absent from the courthouse, then emergency application in any petition will be presented to the chief judge or the chief judge’s designee. If the chief judge and the chief judge’s designee are unavailable, the emergency petition will be presented to the duty judge. (See www.fljud13.org for the duty judge assignment).

4. Professional Conduct and Courtroom Decorum

Counsel will adhere to The Florida Bar’s Guidelines for Professional Conduct,¹ The Florida Bar’s Professionalism Expectation,² and the Hillsborough County Bar Association’s Standards of Professionalism.³ The presiding judge may announce and enforce additional requirements, or may excuse compliance with any provision(s) of the Guidelines, Expectations, or Standards as that judge deems appropriate.

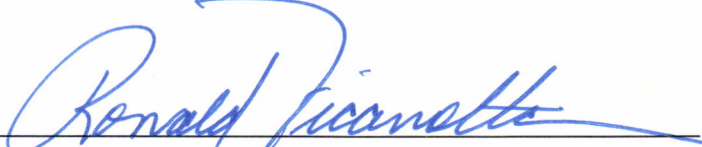
5. Previous Administrative Order Superseded

This administrative order supersedes Administrative Order S-2010-090 (*Medical Treatment and Health Care Advance Directive Procedures*).

6. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective January 1, 2022.

ENTERED on December 10, 2021.


Ronald N. Ficarrotta, Chief Judge

Original: Cindy Stuart, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Copy: All Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health, and Trust
Division Judges

Andrew Warren, State Attorney
Hillsborough County Bar Association

¹ <https://www.floridabar.org/prof/regulating-professionalism/presources002/>

² <https://www.floridabar.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/professionalism-expectations.pdf>

³ <https://www.hillsbar.com/page/Professionalism>