

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2026-007
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2020-048)**

RISK PROTECTION ORDERS

Florida Statutes section 790.401 provides a cause of action authorizing law enforcement officers to seek a risk protection order from the court to temporarily prevent persons who are at high risk of harming themselves or others from accessing firearms when there is demonstrated evidence that a person poses a significant danger to himself or herself or others, including significant danger as a result of a mental health crisis or violent behavior. This statutory provision authorizes temporary *ex parte* orders under certain circumstances requiring the surrender of all firearms and ammunition.

It is necessary for the proper and efficient administration of justice to update some of the administrative provisions concerning the review of petitions seeking a risk protection order. By the power vested in the chief judge under article V, section 2(d), Florida Constitution; Florida Statutes section 43.26; and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is ORDERED:

1. Allocation of Cases

The Clerk of the Circuit Court will assign all petitions and other documents filed under Florida Statutes section 790.401 to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “N.”

2. Review of Petitions

The judge assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “N” will review all petitions and other documents relevant to these cases. If the judge assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “N” is unavailable, another Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division judge will be designated by the Division “N” judge to review these cases in their absence.

3. Service

In accordance with Florida Statutes section 790.401(5), any sworn law enforcement officer in Hillsborough County may effect service of the petition, notice of hearing, and temporary *ex parte* risk protection order or risk protection order, as applicable. A law enforcement agency effecting service must use service and

verification procedures consistent with those of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

4. Hearings

All hearings will be scheduled in Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division "N." A hearing on a petition for a temporary *ex parte* risk protection order will be conducted in person or by telephone on the day the temporary *ex parte* petition is filed or on the next business day immediately following the day the petition is filed in accordance with Florida Statutes section 790.401(4)(d). A hearing on a petition for a (final) risk protection order will be held no later than fourteen days after the date the order setting a hearing is entered in accordance with Florida Statutes section 790.401(3)(a).

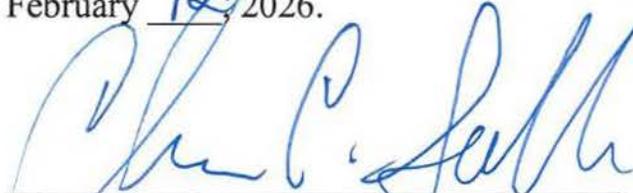
5. Previous Administrative Order Superseded

This administrative order supersedes Administrative Order S-2020-048 (*Risk Protection Orders*).

7. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective immediately.

ENTERED on February 12th, 2026.



Christopher C. Sabella, Chief Judge

Original to: Victor Crist, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Copy to: All Judges

Chad Chronister, Sheriff of Hillsborough County

Lee Bercaw, Chief, Tampa Police Department

Rob Stanley, Chief, Temple Terrace Police Department

Richard Mills, Chief, Plant City Police Department

Christopher L. Daniel, Chief, USF Police Department

Charles Vasquez, Chief, TIA Police Department