

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR THE JUVENILE DIVISION, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 6-4.0

**RE: ACCESS TO JUVENILE COURT RECORDS IN POLK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to provisions of Florida's Juvenile Justice Act, Florida Statute 39.001, et seq., all official records regarding juvenile cases are to be kept confidential; however, the same may be inspected by persons who are found by the Court to "have a proper interest therein;" and

**WHEREAS**, attorneys representing juveniles who are before the Court on Petitions alleging delinquency regularly request access to the delinquency records of juveniles who are potential witnesses against, or co-defendants with, the attorneys' client; and

**WHEREAS**, the juvenile delinquency section of the Public Defender's Office handles such a significant percentage of the cases appearing before the Court, and that to require an individual request on a case-by case basis would be administratively burdensome, it is hereby

**ORDERED AND DIRECTED** that:

1. Any attorney appearing at the Clerk's Office who is representing a juvenile charged by Petition Alleging Delinquency shall be deemed a person having "a proper interest" and accordingly, shall be permitted, without further Order of the court, to inspect juvenile delinquency records for any juvenile that the attorney certifies is to be a witness at an adjudicatory hearing or a possible co-defendant in the pending case.
2. The Clerk of Court is authorized to allow the juvenile division of the Public Defender's Office in maintaining the confidentiality of such information and records, including all written printouts obtained from such records.
3. Information obtained pursuant to this Order shall be used exclusively for the preparation and presentation of a juvenile defendant's case. The confidentiality of individual juveniles, as mandated by the provisions of chapter 39 of the Florida Statutes, shall be protected by the attorney at all times during and following the conclusion of the pending delinquency case.

**DONE and ORDERED** in chambers at Bartow, Polk County, Florida, this 27th day of September, 1993.

**RANDALL G. MCDONALD, CHIEF JUDGE**

