

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR  
HARDEE, HIGHLANDS AND POLK COUNTIES, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 1-49.0

**IN RE: CONVENING OF GRAND JURIES**

WHEREAS, Chapter 905 of the Florida Statutes designates certain responsibilities pertaining to grand juries to the circuit courts; and

WHEREAS, the convening of grand juries is one responsibility designated to the circuit courts; and

WHEREAS, section §905.01(3), Florida Statutes, provides that “[t]he chief judge of each circuit court shall regularly order the convening of the grand jury for a term of 6 months”; and

WHEREAS, the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida comprises Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish procedures and terms for convening grand juries specific to each county making up the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida; and

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. **Grand Jury Terms.** The below terms are established for convening grand juries. When the date that a term is to begin falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday as defined by Rule 2.514(6), the date that the term begins shall be extended to the next calendar date that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.
  - a. Hardee County:
    - i. Spring Term: The spring term shall begin on January 31st and shall end on July 30th; and
    - ii. Fall Term: The fall term shall begin on July 31st and shall end on January 30th.
  - b. Highlands County:
    - i. Spring Term: The spring term shall begin on February 28th and shall end on August 27th; and
    - ii. Fall Term: The fall term shall begin on August 28th and shall end on February 27th.

- c. Polk County:
  - i. Spring Term: The spring term shall begin on March 11th and shall end on September 10th; and
  - ii. Fall Term: The fall term shall begin on September 11th and shall end on March 10th.

2. **Grand Jury Judicial Assignments.**

- a. The following judges are assigned to preside over grand juries during the terms provided in section 1:
  - i. Hardee County: The presiding administrative judge for Hardee County; and
  - ii. Highlands County: The presiding administrative judge for Highlands County; and
  - iii. Polk County: The chief judge.
- b. If a scheduling conflict arises, the assigned judge is responsible for arranging for a substitute judge to preside over the grand jury. The assigned judge must notify the chief judge and the Office of the State Attorney of the substitution.

3. **Summons.** The clerk shall issue summonses for prospective grand jurors to begin each term of the grand jury as outlined in section 1.

4. **Effective Date.** This administrative order is effective upon entry. Any orders entered prior to this administrative order that convened a grand jury shall not be affected by this order.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Bartow, Florida, this 8th day of January, 2014.

WM. BRUCE SMITH, Chief Judge