

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 6-4.1

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, parents, or guardians who are before the Court on Petitions alleging dependency or delinquency regularly request access to juvenile records; and

WHEREAS, the juvenile delinquency section of the Public Defender's Office (hereinafter "PD") and the juvenile division of the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel for the Second DCA Region of Florida (hereinafter "RCC") handle a significant percentage of the cases appearing before the Juvenile Court, and that to require an individual request for access to juvenile records and docket information on a case-by-case basis prior to appointment 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 PD's office and the juvenile division of the RCC office access to juvenile records prior to appointment on a case, including all written printouts obtained from such records. The juvenile division of the RCC shall also have access to daily dependency and shelter dockets.
3. Information obtained pursuant to this Order shall be used exclusively for the preparation and presentation of a juvenile dependency or delinquency case. The confidentiality of individual juveniles and other information, 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 dependency or delinquency case.
4. Administrative Order No. 6-4.0, entered on September 27, 1993, is hereby **SUPERCEDED**.

DONE and **ORDERED** on this 3rd day of April, 2013.

WM. BRUCE SMITH, Chief Judge

