

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

SPECIAL ORDER

IN RE: TRANSFER OF CASES TO SECTION 17

WHEREAS, currently probate and guardianship cases are handled by one judge; and

WHEREAS, the caseload of the Probate and Guardianship Division has increased considerably over the last few years; and

WHEREAS, the Court has determined that the efficient administration of justice necessitates that an additional judge be assigned to the Probate and Guardianship Division; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to redistribute the workload between the judges assigned to the Probate and Guardianship Division; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in the Chief Judge under article V, section 2(d), Florida Constitution; section 43.26, Florida Statutes; and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is ORDERED that:

1. Guardianship Cases: Prior to January 3, all open, re-opened, and closed guardianship cases shall be transferred by the Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Court (“Clerk”) from Division 14 to Division 17.
2. Mental Health Cases (excluding Risk Protection Orders): Prior to January 3, all open, re-opened, and closed mental health cases shall be transferred by the Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Court (“Clerk”) from Division 14 to Division 17.
3. Voluntary Admission to Treatment (“VAT”): Prior to January 3, all open, re-opened, and closed VAT cases shall be transferred by the Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Court (“Clerk”) from Division 31 to Division 17.
4. Hearings: If a transferred case has a hearing scheduled to occur after the date of transfer, but before January 4, 2024, the hearing shall take place as scheduled before the previously assigned judge. Any hearings set to occur on or after January 4, 2024, must be scheduled on the Division 17 docket.

DONE AND ORDERED on this 21st day of December, 2023.

s/JAMES A. YANCEY, Chief Judge

Original: Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Copies:

All Judges

Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Office of the Public Defender

Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, 2nd District Region

Electronic Bar Mailing