

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 4-17.3

ASSIGNMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CASES IN PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS, to promote judicial economy, maximize judicial resources, and provide for the prompt and efficient administration of justice in this circuit, the Court has determined that it is necessary to assign mental health cases in the probate division as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, 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 Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2); it is therefore

ORDERED that:

1. Assignment of Guardianship Cases:
 - a. Indigent guardianship cases, cases in which the ward has been determined indigent, shall be assigned to Section 17.
 - b. Preneed guardianship cases, cases in which a competent adult (declarant), prior to incapacity, names a person in a written declaration to serve as guardian in the event of the declarant's incapacity, shall be assigned to Section 17.
 - c. All other guardianship cases that do not fall under subsections 1.a. or 1.b., above, shall be assigned to Section 18 or 19, based upon the calendar rotation.
 - d. Related cases shall be assigned to the same Section.
2. Risk protection cases shall be assigned to Section 31.
3. All other mental health cases shall be assigned to Section 17.
4. This Order vacates and supersedes Administrative Order No. 4-17.2, entered on January 5, 2024, *nunc pro tunc* to January 4, 2024, and is effective on October 5, 2026.

DONE AND ORDERED on this 2nd day of October 2026.

s/JAMES A. YANCEY, Chief Judge

Copies:
All Judges
Polk County Clerk of Courts
Trial Court Administrator
Electronic Bar Mailing