

**THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. 18-1
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 18-01**

**IN RE: CREATION OF SECTION PMH
06 IN THE PROBATE DIVISION OF
THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the efforts of the Judges in the Probate Division to reduce the number of pending cases in each of their respective judicial sections, such cases continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, the Court has determined that in the interest of effecting the prompt disposition of cases, one (1) additional judicial section must be created in the Probate Division;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida under Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

1. Section PMH 06 is established in the Probate Division.
2. Newly filed cases shall be randomly assigned by the Clerk of Court pursuant to a blind filing system.
3. As to existing cases, twenty percent of the following types of cases shall be randomly and blindly selected from each of the other Sections and transferred by the Clerk of Court to Section PMH 06:
 - a. closed mental health cases concerning determinations of competency;
 - b. closed estate cases; and
 - c. pending cases
4. Any inequities in caseload distribution among the sections of the Probate Division will be adjusted by the Administrative Judge.

5. If all parties in a case desire the original judge to retain a case, counsel shall submit a joint motion to the original judge giving reasons for retention. If the judge agrees to retain the case, an order will be entered by the Administrative Judge, or designee, transferring the case back to the original judge, without the necessity of a hearing.
6. In addition, cases may also be transferred in accordance with previous existing Administrative Orders and Administrative Memoranda, including Administrative Order No. 14-09.
7. All trials and hearings of reassigned cases presently scheduled on or after the effective date of this Administrative Order must be confirmed with the new judge or reset as necessary.

This Administrative Order shall be effective January 18, 2018, *nunc pro tunc*.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade, Florida, this 12th day of February, 2018.

**BERTILA SOTO, CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**