

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 7.09

GUARDIAN ADVOCATE EDUCATION

In order to consolidate approval of education courses required to be taken by guardian advocates appointed in Baker Act and Marchman Act cases, in compliance with section 394.4598(3) and (4), Florida Statutes,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Prior to a guardian advocate exercising his or her authority, the guardian advocate shall attend a training course approved by the Court. This training course of not less than four hours must include, at a minimum, information about the patient rights, psychotropic medications, diagnosis of mental illness, the ethics of medical decision-making, and duties of guardian advocates. The Court may, in its discretion, waive some or all of the training requirements for guardian advocates or impose additional requirements. This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis and, in making the decision, the Court will consider the experience and education of the guardian advocate, the duties assigned to the guardian advocate, and the needs of the patient.

2. The Florida Certification Board's Online Education Platform, through the Department of Children and Families, has prepared an on-line course, available at no cost, that meets the requirements of section 394.4598(3) and (4), Florida Statutes. The course is available at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/mentalhealth/training/index.shtml> (last accessed May 26, 2017). The Florida Certification Board's Online Education Platform, through the Department of Children and Families, is qualified to administer the guardian advocate education course, and is therefore deemed to be a court-approved organization and authorized to provide the training on-line to all guardian advocates within the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

The effective date of this Order is May 30, 2017.

This Order supersedes and replaces Administrative Order No. 7.09 (v3) entitled "Guardian Advocate Education" entered on January 30, 2015.

ORDERED ON this 30th day of May, 2017.



Toby S. Monaco, Chief Judge