

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 6.02

**DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT**

**In order to** consolidate the procedures governing dependency drug courts within the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida,

**IT IS ORDERED:**

**1.** The Eighth Judicial Circuit Dependency Drug Court Program (“Program”) is operational in Alachua and Levy counties. The Program will expand into additional Eighth Judicial Circuit counties as resources become available.

**2.** The criteria for participation in the Program are:

- i. A petition for dependency regarding the parent’s child or children has been filed in an Eighth Circuit county with a Dependency Drug Court Program; and
- ii. The parent has a history of substance abuse.

**3.** When the Department of Children and Families (“Department”) suspects that a parent may have a substance abuse problem, the Department shall ask the judge at the shelter hearing to order the parent to undergo a Dependency Drug Court assessment. At the assessment, the treatment provider will evaluate the parent to determine if the parent is appropriate for the Program. If the parent is deemed appropriate, the parent will be court ordered to participate in the Program.

**4.** A parent ordered to mediation during the dependency proceedings may also become a candidate for the Program. If the Program is a part of a mediated agreement, the Department shall make a referral to the treatment provider and schedule an intake appointment.

**5.** The parent shall undergo the same intake procedures to determine if the parent is appropriate for the Program. If the parent is deemed appropriate, the parent will be court ordered to participate in the Program.

**6.** In the event that the parent does not meet the criteria for entering the Program, or fails to comply with the program after entry, the Department will review the case to determine if a termination of parental rights proceeding should be initiated.

**7.** The Program will consist of a multi-phase treatment model of services, to include intensive outpatient counseling, case management, random urinalysis, and crisis support provided by the treatment provider. The Dependency Drug Court team shall consist of the Dependency Drug Court judge or magistrate; the Court Administration Drug Court Coordinator; the Child Welfare Legal Services attorney; a supervisor from the Partnership for Strong Families; a representative from the Guardian ad Litem Program, and the treatment provider. The treatment provider will work with the Department to provide the treatment required by each participant allowing for information regarding the parent to be forwarded to the Dependency Drug Court judge or magistrate. The team shall conduct staffings prior to each dependency drug court session to review the current cases and make determinations on new referrals.

**8.** The dependency case will continue to be reviewed in dependency court according to state mandates to ascertain compliance with the case plan.

**9.** Dependency Drug Court will be in session one day a week as directed by the Dependency Drug Court judge or magistrate. Cases will be reviewed in Dependency Drug Court on a weekly basis until the parent completes the initial phase of the Program. During phases two, three, and four, cases will be reviewed on a bi-weekly basis, or as determined by the judge or magistrate.

**10.** The treatment provider has a valid interest in having partial access to the dependency court file of a child whose parent is a current participant for the purpose of assisting that parent in complying with the case plan. The treatment provider is therefore authorized to attend hearings and have electronic access to the docket and events of the

specified court files pursuant to section 39.0132(3), Florida Statutes. The treatment provider shall not disclose any information obtained from that access to persons other than those authorized by that section. See § 39.0132 (4), Fla. Stat.

**11.** When Dependency Drug Court is in session, bailiffs assigned to Dependency Drug Court shall follow the security procedures outlined in the applicable administrative order, for courtroom decorum and management; prisoner-handling procedures; facility procedures; arrest procedures; and night security and other duties.

This administrative order consolidates and supersedes prior Administrative Orders 5.555(B), entitled "Dependency Drug Court" dated January 10, 2008, and 5.556, entitled "Levy County Dependency Drug Court" dated January 10, 2008.

**ORDERED ON** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Roundtree, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Roundtree, Jr., Chief Judge