

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PASCO AND PINELLAS COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2016-009 PI-CIR

**RE: PINELLAS CRIMINAL SECTION J**

Administrative Order 2007-051 PI-CIR was adopted to clarify the matters assigned to section J and the responsibilities of the Criminal Administrative Judge and to establish section Q as a separate violation of probation section. It has become necessary in the interests of judicial efficiency to close section Q.

In order to clarify the responsibilities of the Criminal Administrative Judge and close section Q as a separate violation of probation section, and in accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution, Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, it is

**ORDERED:**

1. Section J shall continue to be the section for criminal matters assigned to the Criminal Administrative Judge. Section 001 shall continue to be the section for civil matters assigned to the Criminal Administrative Judge.

2. Petitions for a writ of habeas corpus filed in the circuit civil division by inmates in the Pinellas County Jail are assigned to section 77 to be heard by the Chief Judge, with the exception of those filed in the appellate division of the circuit court and those arising from a probate or juvenile delinquency or dependency matter, in accordance with Administrative Order 2015-018 PI-CIR or subsequent administrative order.

3. The Chief Judge may designate a Circuit Judge as the Criminal Administrative Judge or the Chief Judge may assume the responsibilities of the Criminal Administrative Judge, which include the following responsibilities:

- a. Assign and regulate the use of courtrooms and all areas within the Pinellas County Justice Center under the control of the Circuit Court,
- b. Review the dockets of each felony section,
- c. Reassign criminal cases as needed to provide for the efficient administration of justice,
- d. Provide for the prompt disposition of postconviction proceedings,
- e. Oversee all grand jury proceedings,
- f. Be available to review the status of inmates in the county jail, including conducting a bond calendar at least two times per week,

- g. Be available to serve as the judge for an Emergency Response Team in accordance with Administrative Order 2015-017 PA/PI-CIR or any subsequent administrative order,
- h. Conduct a regular motion calendar for the disposition of bond estreatures, motions to return property, and contested administrative matters from the Circuit Criminal Division,
- i. Review all matters that require an expenditure of public funds, including but not limited to:
  - 1. Attorney's fees and due process expenses for court appointed attorneys,
  - 2. Expenses for persons indigent for costs or pro se,
  - 3. Motions by the Public Defender or Regional Counsel to withdraw,
  - 4. Expenditures for competency or other experts, except those independent experts selected and paid for by the Public Defender and State Attorney, and
  - 5. Preparation of a transcript for court appointed attorneys, persons found indigent for costs, or pro se litigants,
- j. Review the denial of indigent status by the Clerk of the Circuit Court in accordance with Administrative Order 2005-040 PA/PI-CIR or any subsequent administrative order,
- k. Conduct extradition proceedings,
- l. Handle all motions, petitions, and writs relating to the expunction or sealing of records under sections 943.0583, 943.0585, and 943.059, Florida Statutes (excluding petitions to expunge or seal juvenile criminal history records),
- m. Handle all civil forfeiture proceedings in accordance with Administrative Orders 95-97 and 2015-018 PI-CIR or any subsequent administrative orders, and
- n. Aid and assist in the day to day disposition of matters pending in the various criminal sections.

These functions may be performed by the Criminal Administrative Judge or another judge on behalf of the Criminal Administrative Judge.

4. Effective April 1, 2016, section Q is closed. All violation of probation matters will be heard by the assigned section judge.

5. Effective immediately, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall not calendar any violation of probation matters on the section Q calendar unless approved by the section Q judge.

All violation of probation matters to be heard after March 31, 2016, shall be set on the calendar of the assigned section judge.

6. The Clerk of the Circuit Court, the State Attorney, and the Pinellas Information Technology Office shall take the steps needed to ensure that cases are assigned and noticed in accordance with this Administrative Order.

7. Restitution hearings will continue to be held in the assigned section.

Administrative Orders 2007-051 PI-CIR and 2014-047 PI-CIR are hereby rescinded.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers, at St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2016.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON MARCH 1, 2016  
BY ANTHONY RONDOLINO, CHIEF JUDGE

cc: All Pinellas Judges  
The Honorable Bernie McCabe, State Attorney  
The Honorable Bob Dillinger, Public Defender  
The Honorable Paula S. O'Neil, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pasco County  
The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pinellas County  
The Honorable Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff  
Gay Inskeep, Trial Courts Administrator  
Pinellas Information Technology Office  
Court Security Division  
Bar Associations, Pinellas and Pasco County  
Law Libraries, Pinellas and Pasco County