

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2024-006 PI-CTY

**RE: HUNTER HEARINGS – PINELLAS COUNTY**

“Hunter Hearings” are triggered by the filing of written objections challenging a Notice of Issuance of an Investigative Subpoena for Medical Records under section 395.3025(4)(d), Florida Statutes. *See Hunter v. State*, 639 So. 2d 72 (Fla. 5th DCA 1994). It is necessary to clarify the manner in which “Hunter Hearings” are assigned and handled in Pinellas County.

Therefore, in accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution, Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, it is

**ORDERED:**

1. **Case Initiation.** If, in response to the Office of the State Attorney’s Notice of Issuance of Investigative Subpoena for Medical Records under section 395.3025(4)(d), Florida Statutes, an individual or their attorney serves a written objection to the subpoena to the State Attorney’s Office, a hearing regarding the investigative subpoena must take place (“Hunter Hearing”). To assign the matter to a judge and set the matter for a hearing, a case number must be created and assigned.
2. **Creation of Case Number.** Upon receipt of a written objection to the subpoena for medical records, the State Attorney’s Office for the Sixth Judicial Circuit will file a Notice of Hunter Hearing with the Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller’s Office (the “Clerk”). Based on the initiating filing, the Clerk will create a non-reportable case number for the matter. The Clerk must provide the State Attorney’s Office with the case number assigned to the matter.
3. **Initial Case Assignment.** The Clerk will assign the matter to Section E. The State Attorney’s Office must contact the County Administrative Judge’s office and provide the case number.
4. **Reassignment of Case.** The County Administrative Judge will determine whether they will handle the matter or whether the matter must be reassigned to another judge. If the matter must be reassigned to another judge, the County Administrative Judge will issue an Order of Reassignment to the judge who will preside over the hearing.
5. **Scheduling the Hunter Hearing.** To schedule the Hunter Hearing, the State Attorney’s Office must contact the assigned judge’s office. The assigned judge will preside over the Hunter Hearing.

6. **Case Closure.** The Clerk will maintain all documents related to the case. Upon the conclusion of the Hunter Hearing and the Court's final ruling, an order granting or denying that instructs the case to be closed will be prepared by the State Attorney's Office, signed by the judge, and filed with the Clerk. Upon receipt of the signed order, the Clerk will close the case in the case maintenance system.

7. **Cases Arising Out of a Hunter Hearing.** If a new criminal case is initiated after the conclusion of a Hunter Hearing, the documents from the initial Hunter Hearing will remain with that case and no case link to the new criminal case will be required.

8. **Subsequent Notices and Motions.** If a new criminal case is not initiated, but a new Notice of Investigative Subpoena for Medical Records is issued or a subsequent motion is filed, the subsequent notice or motion will be filed within the open medical records case number. If the medical records case number is closed, the subsequent notice or motion will reopen the prior medical records case number. At the conclusion of the subsequent Hunter Hearing or the issuance of an order on the subsequent motion, the procedure outlined herein for closing that case will be followed.

9. **Hunter Hearings within Existing Cases.** If the Notice of Issuance of Investigative Subpoena for Medical Records is issued within an existing case, the procedures outlined herein do not apply. In that instance, the matter will be filed within the existing case number and the Hunter Hearing will be heard by the already assigned judge in the existing case.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2024.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON JANUARY 17, 2024  
BY SHAWN CRANE, CHIEF JUDGE

cc: All Pinellas Judges  
The Honorable Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney  
The Honorable Sara Mollo, Public Defender  
The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pinellas County  
The Honorable Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff  
Ngozi Acholonu, Assistant Regional Counsel  
Jennifer Parker, Trial Courts Administrator  
Michele Emmerman, Deputy Trial Courts Administrator  
Bar Associations, Pasco and Pinellas Counties  
Law Libraries, Pasco and Pinellas Counties