

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO: OCAD2024-03**

**RE: PROCEDURE REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL  
FOLLOWING A PETITION FOR INVOLUNTARY INPATIENT PLACEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of Administrative Order 2007-51, General Magistrates appointed within the First Judicial Circuit have been appointed to hear all matters arising from the Baker Acts, Chapter 394, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapter 394.467(4), Florida Statutes, the Court shall appoint counsel, i.e., the Public Defender, to represent any individual subject to the filing of a Petition for Involuntary Inpatient Placement; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Chapter 394.467(4), Florida Statutes, the Court shall appoint any such Public Defender within one day, excluding weekends and Court holidays, it is therefore

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:**

1. EFFECTIVE DATE: The administrative policies and procedures herein, shall be effective April 9, 2024.
2. APPLICABILITY: All appointments of counsel shall be made as set forth herein.
3. ORDERS APPOINTING COUNSEL: Effective pursuant to the entry of this Administrative Directive, the Clerk of Court for Okaloosa County, Florida, is hereby directed to issue an Order Appointing Counsel to represent any individual subject to the filing of a Petition for Involuntary Inpatient Placement. *See* attached Order Appointing Counsel.

**DONE AND ORDERED** at Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa County, Florida this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/S/ WILLIAM F. STONE  
**WILLIAM F. STONE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

**Administrative Directive No. OCAD2024-03**

**Copies furnished to:**

Honorable John L. Miller, Chief Judge  
All Circuit and County Judges, Okaloosa County  
Kasey Watson, Trial Court Administrator  
Honorable J.D. Peacock II, Clerk of Circuit Court  
Eric Bensinger, General Counsel  
Ursula Hall, Court Operations Manager, Okaloosa County  
Okaloosa Clerk of Circuit Court  
Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association  
Okaloosa Bar Association  
Walton Bar Association

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,**

**Petitioner,**

**and**

**Case No.: XX MH XXX**

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,**

**Respondent.**

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**ORDER APPOINTING COUNSEL**

This Order is issued pursuant to Chapter 394.467(4) of the Florida Statutes and the provisions set forth in Administrative Directive OCAD2024-03 for Okaloosa County, Florida.

This matter is pending before the Court for consideration in which respondent seeks the services of a Court appointed counsel.

Accordingly, it is therefore

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Public Defender, a licensed attorney practicing in Okaloosa County, Florida, is hereby appointed as counsel to represent respondent in all matters pending under Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Statutes. It is further

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that, respondent has the right to an independent expert examination, and if respondent wishes to exercise that right, the Court must be informed in writing prior to the scheduled hearing date.

ORDERED in Okaloosa County, Florida.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**WILLIAM F. STONE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

**Copies Furnished via Electronic Mail:**

Office of the Public Defender, Okaloosa County  
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, Okaloosa County