

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

OKALOOSA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE OCAD2016-06

WHEREAS, the Court must provide appropriate opportunities for any person who qualifies under the provisions of Ch. 741, *Florida Statutes* and Ch. 784, *Florida Statutes* to file a sworn petition for protection against domestic violence, repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence or stalking; and

WHEREAS it is imperative to the orderly administration of justice that the judiciary have adequate time to properly consider and rule upon any sworn petition for domestic, repeat, sexual, dating, and stalking injunction; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to establish a time period within which a qualified person may file a sworn petition for protection under the aforementioned statutes in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller for Okaloosa County; it is

ORDERED that:

1. Effective November 8, 2016 the Family Law Division of the Okaloosa County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller will accept and process any sworn petition for protection against domestic violence, repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking at the Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension, 1940 Lewis Turner Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach, Florida received between the business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Central Time, Monday through Friday, with the exception of official court holidays and/or emergency closures as mandated by the Chief Judge of the First Judicial Circuit.
2. Any person qualified to file a sworn petition for protection against domestic violence, repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking as identified in Ch. 741 and Ch. 784, *Florida Statutes* arriving in the office of the Okaloosa County Clerk

of the Circuit Court and Comptroller outside the business hours between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday, arrives on an official court holiday, or arrives during an emergency closure will be required to return to the office of the Okaloosa County Clerk of Court and Comptroller the following business day during the requisite hours to file a sworn petition.

3. If the need for an emergency petition arises at any time other than the business hours identified herein, a person seeking an emergency temporary injunction for protection may contact a law enforcement agency which has jurisdiction in the city or county in which the incident occurred to petition the entry of a 72-hour verbal Emergency Temporary Injunction for Protection Order pursuant to the provisions of First Judicial Circuit Administrative Order No. 2003-61.

DONE AND ORDERED in Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa County, Florida this 3rd day of November, 2016.

/S/ MICHAEL A. FLOWERS

MICHAEL A. FLOWERS
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

Honorable Linda L. Nobles, Chief Judge
All Judges, Okaloosa County
All Clerks, First Judicial Circuit
Honorable William Eddins, State Attorney, First Judicial Circuit
Honorable Bruce Miller, Public Defender, First Judicial Circuit
Robin Wright, Trial Court Administrator, First Judicial Circuit
Law Enforcement Agencies, Okaloosa County
Shelter House, Okaloosa County