

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 5.706-06/4/2025\*

IN RE: JUVENILE DIVISION - THERAPEUTIC COURT DOCKET

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Chapter 39.407 of the Florida Statutes outlines the procedures for assessing, and if needed, placing children who are in out of home care into residential psychiatric treatment centers, including therapeutic group homes. The Therapeutic Court Docket (also referred to as “TC”) was created to streamline the process and allow a dedicated magistrate to address this important matter with the assistance of court case management services.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is ORDERED as follows:

1. A Juvenile Division Therapeutic Court Docket is hereby established in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.
  - a) The goal of the Therapeutic Court (TC) Docket is to streamline the process for assessment and review of psychiatric residential placement for dependent children.
  - b) When a child is identified as being in need of a suitability assessment for possible residential psychiatric placement, the court case manager will monitor the court case.
  - c) If the divisional judge determines that it is appropriate for a child to be placed in a residential psychiatric placement, the court case manager will initiate procedures to transfer the matter relating to residential psychiatric placement to the TC Docket Magistrate including an Order of referral to the TC Magistrate. The TC Magistrate will hear only matters pursuant to section 39.407(6), Florida Statutes, related to the issue of whether the child continues to meet the criteria for residential psychiatric placement, including the initial 60 day review, all subsequent 90 day reviews and any other matters related thereto. The regular judicial review hearings and permanency hearings required under sections 39.701 and 39.621, Florida, Statutes will remain before the juvenile magistrate **or the Circuit Judge in Division JS.**
2. TC dockets will be held monthly on the third Thursday via Zoom, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm (time and location subject to change).

3. Once it has been determined that the child no longer meets the placement and review criteria under section 39.407(6), Florida Statutes, there will be no further hearings for the child on the TC docket, and the Order of Referral to the TC Magistrate will be automatically terminated by a Final Order by the Magistrate.

**DONE and ORDERED** in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025



GLENN D. KELLEY

Chief Judge

\*supersedes admin order 5.706-06/2025