

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 2021-06**

**RE: MISCELLANEOUS ESCAMBIA COUNTY COURT OPERATIONS –  
JIMMY RYCE, TOBACCO CASES, AND PROBATE/GUARDIANSHIP  
RECUSAL PROCESS**

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Judge has issued Administrative Order 2021-19, creating a new circuit court division and realigning the divisional structure of the circuit courts in Escambia County; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned changes in the divisional structure necessitate that provision be made for certain categories of cases for proper docket management and maximum efficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned is appointed as Administrative Judge for Escambia County in Administrative Order 2019-29, it is,

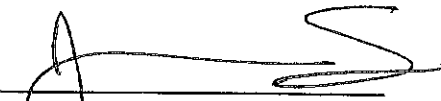
**ORDERED:**

- 1) **Jimmy Ryce proceedings:** Effective January 3, 2022, any new civil commitment cases (pending trial or agreement by the defendant to be civilly committed) will remain in the criminal division in which the criminal case originated. Therefore, any hearings, including the civil commitment trial, should be scheduled with the criminal judge who presided in the qualifying criminal case. The case may be given a civil case designation, but it will be tried by the criminal judge. If the defendant is committed, the case will then be assigned to one of the three civil divisions for all hearings pertaining to annual review and eventual release. Any post-commitment hearings should be scheduled with the relevant civil division.

Existing Jimmy Ryce cases in which the defendant is already committed will be handled in one of two ways. Those cases assigned to current civil division judges who will also be in civil divisions in 2022 will keep current commitment cases and continue to manage them. Those cases currently assigned to civil division judges who will not have a civil division in 2022 will be randomly assigned to one of the three civil divisions which will be created in 2022.

- 2) **Tobacco Cases:** All tobacco litigation cases, both existing and newly filed, shall be assigned to Division F, effective January 3, 2022.
- 3) **Probate and Guardianship Conflicts:** Effective January 3, 2022, Division U and T will be probate divisions in which Judge W. Joel Boles is presiding. In the event Judge Boles is unavailable to preside in a probate or guardianship case due to a recusal or disqualification, the case shall be assigned to Division E-Civil. Should a conflict also arise in Division E-Civil, the case will be randomly reassigned to one of the remaining civil divisions.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, this  
14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021.



**Jan Shackelford**  
Administrative Judge

Copies:

All Judges, Escambia County  
Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney, First Judicial Circuit  
Bruce A. Miller, Public Defender, First Judicial Circuit  
Pam Childers, Clerk of Court, Escambia County  
Robin M. Wright, Trial Court Administrator, First Judicial Circuit  
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