

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2000-001

IN RE: BAKER ACT CASE
 MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of Florida Commission on Fairness has determined that portions of Florida's Baker Act negatively impact upon the elderly and residents with psychiatric disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Fairness has determined that abuse of this process places every person at risk of being the victim of an estranged spouse, dishonest persons, or other person, who may be harboring a grudge against the person to be Baker Acted; and.

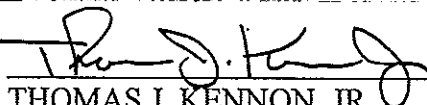
WHEREAS, the Commission on Fairness has made certain recommendations to prevent abuse of the process by estranged spouses and other persons who may be acting in an inappropriate manner towards the person to be Baker Acted.

WHEREAS, the Commission has recommended that a process be implemented whereby all Clerks of Courts' offices routinely check for felony, misdemeanor, domestic violence injunctions and divorce records to determine if there are any other cases pending involving the respondent and /or petitioner. If any cases are pending, they are to be presented to the Judge presiding over the Baker Act proceeding, along with the Baker Act petition. The intent is to alert the Court to any ulterior motives that may be involved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:

Each Clerk of Court of the seven (7) counties within the Third Circuit shall implement a procedure within their respective office to verify whether any case files are pending or closed which involve both the Petitioner and the Respondent in any Baker Act proceeding including but not limited to felony, misdemeanor, domestic violence injunctions and divorce cases and shall ensure that all such files involving the parties are presented to the Judge presiding over the Baker Act proceeding before the issuance of an *Ex parte order*.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers this 14th day of January, 2000.


THOMAS J. KENNON, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE

Copies to: Clerks of Court
 Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit
 Public Defenders
 State Attorney
 Meridian Health Care (by u.s. mail)

Copies/faxed mailed
1/19/00 by Barb Lussier.