

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

Administrative Order Number 2013-004

IN RE: Court Innovations Expenditures Pursuant to Section 939.185, Florida Statutes

WHEREAS, Section 939.185, Florida Statutes, provides for a board of county commissioners to adopt by ordinance an additional court cost, not to exceed \$65, to be imposed by the court in certain cases; and

WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of the amount collected shall be allocated to fund innovations, as determined by the chief judge of the circuit, to supplement state funding for the elements of the state courts system identified in s. 29.004 and county funding for local requirements under s. 29.008(2)(a); and

WHEREAS, the remainder of the revenue generated from such an ordinance is divided equally among legal aid programs; a law library; and teen court programs, juvenile assessment center, and other juvenile alternative programs; and

WHEREAS, any funds in the three latter categories unspent at the end of the county's fiscal year are transferred for use in the "court innovations category"; and

WHEREAS, s. 29.008(2)(a), Florida Statutes, establishes that local requirements are those specialized programs, nonjudicial staff, and other expenses associated with specialized court programs, specialized prosecution needs, specialized defense needs, or resources required of a local jurisdiction as a result of special factors or circumstances. Local requirements exist when imposed pursuant to an express statutory directive, based on geographic factors, demographic factors, labor market forces, the number and location of court facilities, or the volume, severity, complexity, or mix of court cases; or when the county has enacted an ordinance, adopted a local program, or funded activities with a financial or operational impact on the circuit or a county within the circuit; or when circumstances in a given circuit or county result in or necessitate implementation of specialized programs, the provision of non-judicial staff and expenses to specialized court programs, special prosecution needs, specialized defense needs, or the commitment of resources to the court's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, there currently exist no local requirements, as defined in s. 29.008(2)(a), in the Third Judicial Circuit, but if there were, any funding authority would only occur through the process described in s. 29.008(2)(a); and

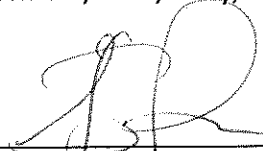
WHEREAS, it is necessary that a consistent policy be implemented and standards procedures be followed to ensure that funds collected are used to fund court innovations, as determined by the chief judge; and

WHEREAS, Section 43.26(5), Florida Statutes, states that there may be a trial court administrator who shall perform such duties as the chief judge may direct.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The Chief Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit must approve all court innovations expenditures. The Chief Judge hereby delegates to the trial court administrator the authority to sign invoices for payment in order to expedite payment of such approved expenditures.
- (2) The definition of an innovation is a new method, custom, or device; something that deviates from established doctrines or practice; something that differs from existing forms; or change or novelty. Accordingly, court innovations funds shall not be used for basic or ongoing expenses of the courts, but rather to fund enhancements and/or new approaches for any of the elements of the state courts system identified in s. 29.004, Florida Statutes.
- (3) Invoices for expenses allowed pursuant to Florida Statutes and this administrative order shall be provided to the Office of Court Administration, 173 NE Hernando Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, FL 32055 for approval. Once approved, the invoice shall be forwarded to the appropriate county for payment.

DONE and ORDERED in chambers this 12th day of December, 2013, Perry, Taylor County, Florida.



HONORABLE GREG S. PARKER, Chief Judge

CC: County and Circuit Court Judges
Clerks of Court
County Managers/Administrators/Coordinators
Chairpersons, Boards of County Commissioners
Office of the Court Administrator