

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 7.101-9/08*

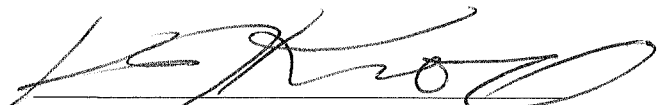
IN RE: TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE BY PRISONERS/INMATES
IN **NON-CRIMINAL** DIVISIONS OF THE COURT

Numerous prisoners in custody throughout the State of Florida and the United States have filed and continue to file civil actions in this circuit. Their transportation to and from this circuit for **non-criminal** non-evidentiary hearings has become extremely expensive and an unwarranted security risk.

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

1. In non-evidentiary hearings before the civil, **probate/guardianship and Unified Family Court** divisions of the court involving prisoners in custody, said prisoners shall make their appearance telephonically.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Office of the State Attorney General or the institution having custody of the prisoner to arrange for the prisoner's telephonic appearance with the Court's judicial assistant and all other interested parties and/or counsel.
3. The costs of the telephonic appearance shall be borne by the institution having custody of the prisoner in lieu of the prisoner's transportation expenses and live appearance before the court.
4. The judge presiding over any prisoner's case may require the live appearance of the prisoner for a non-evidentiary hearing upon a showing of good cause and in the exercise of the court's sound discretion.
5. This order shall not apply to evidentiary hearings although evidentiary hearings may be conducted telephonically with the stipulation and agreement of all parties and/or counsel including the prisoner.

29 **DONE** and **SIGNED** in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this day of September, 2008.


Kathleen J. Kroll
Chief Judge