

Supreme Court of Florida

PROCLAMATION

In re: Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Awareness

WHEREAS, substance use disorders have far-reaching, destructive effects on the nation and our state; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in a surge in drug use and overdose deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths are an urgent public health problem in the United States and Florida, exacerbated by increased illicit uses of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid known to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine; and

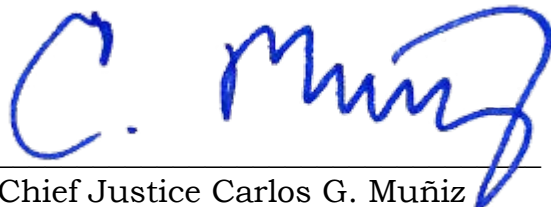
WHEREAS, in addition to the dangers of opioids and stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamines, deceptive lacing of fentanyl with other drugs is occurring at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon judges and court staff, particularly those serving in problem-solving courts and family courts, to understand the nature of addiction, its effects on the brain, the incidence of substance use disorders, trends affecting drug use and overdoses, treatment needs and options, court best practices, and resources for addiction recovery as well as overdose reversal; and

WHEREAS, the need for collaboration and continued development of partnerships between the justice system and other stakeholders is vital.

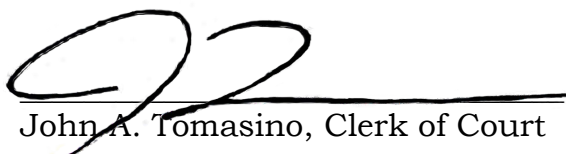
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Carlos G. Muñoz, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby proclaim that September 2022 shall be known within the State Courts System as a month of awareness, training, and action regarding opioids, stimulants, and treatment for related substance use disorders. I call upon judicial officers and court staff members to increase their efforts to understand the effects of opioid use disorder and stimulant use disorder throughout the judicial system and in the cases before them.

DONE IN CHAMBERS on this Twenty-Ninth Day of August in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Two.



Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñoz

ATTEST:



John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

