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# Supreme Court of Florida

500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1925

RICKY POLSTON  
CHIEF JUSTICE  
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R. FRED LEWIS  
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CHARLES T. CANADY  
JORGE LABARGA  
JAMES E. C. PERRY  
JUSTICES

THOMAS D. HALL  
CLERK OF COURT

SILVESTER DAWSON  
MARSHAL

November 8, 2012

The Honorable Kevin Emas, Chair  
Criminal Court Steering Committee  
Third District Court of Appeal  
2001 SW 117th Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33175-1716

Ms. Alexandra E. Rieman, Chair  
Rules of Judicial Administration Committee  
Broward County Courthouse  
201 SE 6th Street, Suite 880  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Re: E-mail Service and Electronic Filing in Proceedings Brought Pursuant  
to the Involuntary Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators Act,  
Chapter 394, Part V, Florida Statutes (Jimmy Ryce Proceedings)

Dear Judge Emas and Ms. Rieman:

At the direction of the Court, I am writing you in your capacity as Chairs to the Criminal Court Steering Committee and the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, respectively, to ask your committees to consider whether any changes to the rules of procedure are necessary to accommodate e-mail service or electronic filing (e-filing) in cases brought under the Involuntary Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators Act, Chapter 394, Part V, Florida Statutes (Jimmy Ryce Proceedings).

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Ms. Alexandra E. Rieman  
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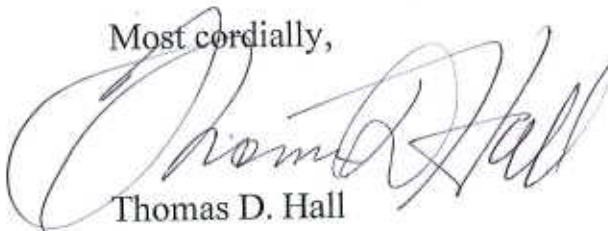
On October 18, 2012, the Court issued revised opinions in In re Amendments to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Florida Probate Rules, the Florida Rules of Traffic Court, the Florida Small Claims Rules, the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure, the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, and the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure—E-Mail Service Rule, No. SC10-2101 (Fla. October 18, 2012), and In re Amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Florida Probate Rules, the Florida Small Claims Rules, the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure, the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, and the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure— Electronic Filing, No. SC11-399 (Fla. October 18, 2012). In these opinions, the Court provided that the new e-mail service and e-filing requirements, as they apply in Jimmy Ryce proceedings, will not be mandatory until October 1, 2013, at 12:01 a.m. However, the Court also requested that the Criminal Court Steering Committee, together with the RJA Committee, review whether any changes to the rules of procedure are necessary to accommodate e-mail service and e-filing in these types of proceedings. See E-mail Service Rule, slip op. at 10, n. 6; Electronic Filing, slip op. at 23, n. 21.

Consistent with the Court's direction, the Criminal Court Steering Committee and the RJA Committee should consider this issue. If the committees determine that rule amendments are necessary, they should file a joint report of proposed rule amendments with my office by April 1, 2013, with copies to the liaison justice to your committee and the Director of Central Staff. The RJA Committee should coordinate this project.

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Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Court's liaisons to your committees.

Most cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas D. Hall", written in dark ink.

Thomas D. Hall

TDH/jb/sb

cc: Chief Justice Ricky L. Polston, Liaison to the Rules of Judicial  
Administration Committee  
Justice Jorge Labarga, Liaison to Criminal Court Steering Committee  
Jodi Jennings, Bar Staff Liaison to the Rules of Judicial Administration  
Committee  
✓Bart Schneider, OSCA Support Staff to the Criminal Court Steering  
Committee  
Deborah J. Meyer, Director of Central Staff