

Supreme Court of Florida

PROCLAMATION

In re: Opioid Use Disorder Awareness

WHEREAS, on November 29, 2018, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that life expectancy in the United States has declined and this troubling trend is largely driven by deaths from drug overdose and suicide; and

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council reported on January 14, 2019, that for the first time Americans are more likely to die from an accidental opioid overdose than from a motor vehicle crash; and

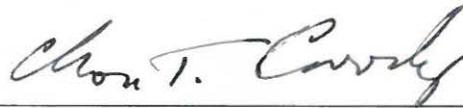
WHEREAS, according to data published in March 2019 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse there has recently been a tremendous surge in Florida of overdose deaths involving opioids, especially fentanyl and fentanyl analogs; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the opioid crisis is apparent throughout the Florida State Courts System where judicial officers and staff members serving in a variety of court divisions have been or will be involved in the judicial administration of cases involving individuals with opioid use disorder; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon judges and court staff members, particularly those serving in problem-solving courts and family courts, to understand the basics of addiction and its impact on the brain, the standard for treatment of opioid use disorder, and legal implications and court responses to individuals with this disorder;

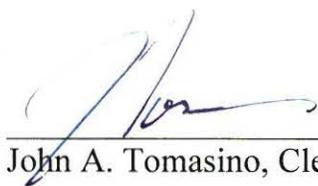
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Charles T. Canady, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby proclaim that July 2019 shall be known within the State Courts System as a month of awareness regarding opioids and treatment for opioid use disorder. I call upon judicial officers and court staff members to increase their efforts to understand the effect of opioid use disorder throughout the judicial system and in the cases before them.

DONE IN CHAMBERS on this Twenty-Fourth Day of April in the Year Two Thousand Nineteen.



Chief Justice Charles T. Canady

ATTEST:



John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court