



Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

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STATEMENT FROM CHIEF JUDGE JOHN M. HARRIS:

Following a four week leave of absence, Brevard County Court Judge John Murphy will return to work on Monday, June 30, 2014. Over the past few weeks, I have met with Judge Murphy on several occasions. I have also spoken with the State Attorney and the Public Defender for the 18th Circuit, each of whom has given his unqualified support for Judge Murphy's return to the bench at this time. Nonetheless, it is my determination that the interests of the 18th Judicial Circuit will best be served by shifting Judge Murphy's primary assignment from handling criminal cases to handling civil cases.

This reassignment is done to promote the efficient administration of justice and is not intended to be any form of discipline, as Florida's Rules of Judicial Administration do not provide Chief Judges any disciplinary authority over other duly elected constitutional officers. Judge Murphy, who has been receiving anger management counseling since the incident on June 2, 2014, is in full agreement with this reassignment, and has further agreed to continue his anger management counseling indefinitely.

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