

Section I

Notice of Development of Proposed Rules and Negotiated Rulemaking

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

12-26.008 Public Use Forms

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the draft amendments to Rule 12-26.008, F.A.C. (Public Use Forms), is to amend this rule regarding form RAO - Rural Areas of Opportunity, Application for Certification, Exempt Goods and Services Sales Tax Refund, and form DR26AH - Application for Refund of Sales and Use Tax on Building Materials Used in Construction of Eligible Residential Units for Affordable Housing, to clarify how the refund applies to discretionary sales surtax.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Clarification of how the refund applies to discretionary sales surtax.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 212.08(5)(n)4., (o)4., (p)3.c., (v)5., 213.06(1) FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 72.011, 199.218, 201.11, 202.23, 206.41, 206.64, 206.8745, 206.9875, 206.9942, 212.08(2)(j), (5)(n), (o), (p), (v), (7), 212.12(6)(a), (c), 212.13(1), (2), 212.17(1), (2), (3), 213.255(2), (3), (4), (12), 213.34, 213.37, 215.26, 220.725, 220.727, 624.5092, 681.104 FS.

IF REQUESTED IN WRITING AND NOT DEEMED UNNECESSARY BY THE AGENCY HEAD, A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

DATE AND TIME: October 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: 2450 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Building One, Room 1221, Tallahassee, Florida. (IF NOT REQUESTED, THIS WORKSHOP WILL NOT BE HELD.)

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 48 hours before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Tonya Fulford at (850)717-6799. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT AND A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT, IF AVAILABLE, IS: Martha Gregory, Office of Technical Assistance, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 7443, Tallahassee, Florida 32314-7443, telephone (850)717-6041, email RuleComments@floridarevenue.com.

THE PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT IS: Published on the Department's website at floridarevenue.com/rules.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

FSC - Financial Institution Regulation

RULE NOS.: RULE TITLES:

69U-105.102 Application

69U-105.800 Capital, Liquidity, and Risk Management
for Stablecoin Issuers

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To amend Rule 69U-105.102 by adding a hyperlink to amended form OFR-U-28, Application for Authority to Organize a Trust Company, to conform to and implement Chapter 2026-176, Laws of Florida, which requires the Office to modify current forms relating to an application to organize a trust company to conform the regulatory framework for payment stablecoin issuers, pursuant to 658.997(2)(b)5, F.S. To create Rule 69U-105.800 to conform to and implement Chapter 2026-176, Laws of Florida, which requires the agency, pursuant to s. 658.997(8), F.S., to adopt rules relating to payment stablecoin issuers' capital, liquidity, and risk management requirements which are consistent with s. 4(a)(4) of the GENIUS Act

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Financial Institutions
RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 655.012(2), 658.997(8)

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 655.411, 120.60(1), 655.057, 658.19, 658.26, 658.42, 658.997, 667.003 FS. 655.50(12)

IF REQUESTED IN WRITING AND NOT DEEMED UNNECESSARY BY THE AGENCY HEAD, A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WILL BE NOTICED IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT AND A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT, IF AVAILABLE, IS: Gerald Perez, gerald.perez@flofr.gov; (813)218-5367

THE PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT IS AVAILABLE AND CAN BE OBTAINED, AT NO CHARGE, FROM THE CONTACT PERSON LISTED ABOVE.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

FSC - Financial Institution Regulation

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

69U-120.0451 Financial Reports

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To amend Rule 69U-120.0451 by adding a hyperlink to new form OFR-U-451 Certification to the Accuracy of the Month-End Reserve Report, to conform to and implement Chapter 2026-176, Laws of Florida, which requires the Office to implement said certification to conform the regulatory framework for payment stablecoin issuers, pursuant to 658.997(6)(a)6, F.S.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Financial Institutions
RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 655.012(2), 663.414,
663.406(4),(5),(6),(9), 663.4081(2)

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 663.414, 663.406, 663.4081, 658.997
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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Finance

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

69V-40.111 Disciplinary Guidelines

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Amend rule to update disciplinary
guidelines.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Consumer Finance

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 494.0011(2) FS

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 494.0016, 494.00165, 494.0023,
494.0025, 494.00255, 494.0026, 494.00296, 494.00331,
494.0035, 494.0036, 494.0038, 494.0039, 494.004, 494.0042,
494.0043, 494.0063, 494.00665, 494.0065, 494.0067,
494.0069, 494.007, 494.0071, 494.00721, 494.0075, 494.0076
FS

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Harley, sheila.harley@flofr.gov, (850)410-9716

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Finance

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

69V-160.111 Disciplinary Guidelines

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Amend rule to update disciplinary
guidelines.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Consumer Finance

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 516.23(3)

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 516.02, 516.031, 516.035, 516.037,
516.05, 516.07, 516.15, 516.16, 516.17, 516.21, 516.31, 516.36
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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Finance

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

69V-180.100 Disciplinary Guidelines

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Amend rule to update disciplinary
guidelines.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Consumer Finance

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 559.554, 559.730(7) FS

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 559.5556, 559.565(1), 559.72,
559.725(6), 559.730 FS

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**Finance**

RULE NOS.:	RULE TITLES:
69V-560.1000	Disciplinary Guidelines
69V-560.1012	Adoption of Forms
69V-560.1013	Electronic Filing of Forms and Fees
69V-560.102	Application or Appointment Procedures and Requirements
69V-560.201	Amendments, Change of Name, Change of Entity and Change in Control or Ownership
69V-560.302	Renewal Fees, Deadlines, and Requirements
69V-560.903	Deferred Presentment Transactions

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Amend rules to conform to and implement Chapters 2026-174 and 2026-176, Laws of Florida, and update disciplinary guidelines.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Consumer Finance
 RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 215.405, 560.105, 560.1115, 560.118, 560.1141, 560.126, 560.141, 560.142, 560.143, 560.155, 560.2085, 560.209, 560.214, 560.403, 560.404, 560.502, 560.506 FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 560.105, 560.109, 560.1092, 560.1105, 560.111, 560.1115, 560.113, 560.114, 560.1141, 560.118, 560.123, 560.1235, 560.125, 560.126, 560.128, 560.141, 560.142, 560.143, 560.1401, 560.155, 560.204, 560.205, 560.208, 560.2085, 560.209, 560.210, 560.211, 560.213, 560.214, 560.303, 560.309, 560.310, 560.403, 560.404, 560.405, 560.406, 560.502, 560.504, 948.053 FS

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**Finance**

RULE NOS.:	RULE TITLES:
69V-560.1014	Electronic Filing of Exemption from Licensure.
69V-560.1015	Stablecoin Certification Forms.
69V-560.1022	Capital, Liquidity, and Risk Management.
69V-560.6061	Annual Filing of Audited Financial Statements by Qualified Payment Stablecoin Issuer Licensees.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Create rules to conform to and implement Chapter 2026-176, Laws of Florida.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Consumer Finance
 RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 560.105, 560.506 FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 560.123, 560.501, 560.502, 560.504, FS.

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Section II

Proposed Rules

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**Division of Elections**

RULE NO.:	RULE TITLE:
1S-2.042	Third-Party Voter Registration Organizations

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Amendment to the Rule and its incorporated forms to fully implement Ch. 2022-73, Laws of Fla., and 2023-120, Laws of Fla., remove a requirement that was held unconstitutional, update contact information, update statutory citations, and incorporate administrative experience.

SUMMARY: This amendment updates the Rule and incorporated forms to provide procedures for voluntary termination and re-registration of 3PVRs, remove a requirement that was held unconstitutional, update contact information and statutory citations, and make other changes based on administrative experience.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this rule will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: The Department used a checklist to conduct an economic analysis and determine if there is an adverse impact

or regulatory costs associated with this rule that exceeds the criteria in section 120.541(2)(a), F.S. Based upon this analysis, the Department has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 20.10(3); 97.012(1), (2), (15); 97.0575(1), (3), (4), (9)

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 97.012(1), (2), (15); 97.021(40); 97.053; 97.0575

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW (IF NOT REQUESTED, THIS HEARING WILL NOT BE HELD):

DATE AND TIME: October 16, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: R.A. Gray Building, 500 S Bronough Street, Room 307, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250. Teleconference information will be made available at <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/laws-rules/rules> prior to the hearing.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 7 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Bilal Faruqui, bilal.faruqui@dos.fl.gov, (850)245-6519. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Bilal Faruqui, Deputy General Counsel, bilal.faruqui@dos.fl.gov, (850)245-6519

THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

1S-2.042 Third-Party Voter Registration Organizations.

~~(1) Applicability. This rule provides procedures for the regulation of 3PVROs and third party voter registration activities.~~

~~(1)(2) Forms. The following forms are hereby incorporated by reference and available from the Division of Elections, R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250, by contact at (850)245-6200, or by download from the Division's webpage at: <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/forms-publications/forms>; <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/forms-publications/forms> incorporated in rule/~~

(a) Form DS-DE 119 (Eff. 11/2026) (<http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20148>) (~~eff. 09/23~~);

(~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15844>~~), entitled "~~3PVRO Third Party Voter Registration Organization~~ Registration Form."

(b) Form DS-DE 121 (Eff. 11/2026) (<http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20149>) (~~eff. 09/23~~);

(~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15845>~~), entitled "~~Form for Complaint Against 3PVRO Third Party Voter Registration Organization.~~"

(c) Form DS-DE 124 (Eff. 11/2026) (<http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20150>) (~~eff. 09/23~~);

(~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15846>~~), entitled "~~Supervisor of Elections' Accounting of 3PVRO's Third Party Voter Registration Organization's Voter Registration Applications.~~"

(d) Form DS-DE 126 (Eff. 11/2026) (<http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20151>) (~~eff. 09/23~~);

(~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15847>~~), entitled "~~Supervisors of Elections' Transmittal Form – 3PVRO Noncompliance.~~"

(e) Form DS-DE 127 (Eff. 11/2026) (<http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20152>) (~~eff. 09/23~~);

(~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15848>~~), entitled "~~Non-Felon Declaration and U.S. Citizen Declarations.~~"

(f) Form DS-DE 129 (Eff. 11/2026) (<http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20153>) (~~eff. 09/23~~);

(~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-15849>~~), entitled "~~3PVRO Voter Registration Application Receipt.~~"

~~(2)(3)~~ No change.

~~(3)(4)~~ Registration and Termination.

(a) Before engaging in any voter registration activities, a 3PVRO shall complete and file Form DS-DE 119 by submitting the form in .pdf format to with the Division by email to 3PVRO@dos.fl.gov, ~~3PVRO@dos.myflorida.com~~ with the form attached in .pdf format. An affiliate organization which itself independently engages in separate collection of voter registration applications from Florida voter registration applicants on behalf of its the affiliate must file a Form DS-DE 119 even if its affiliated organization has filed a Form DS-DE 119. Upon receipt of a 3PVRO's complete and filed Form DS-DE 119, the Division shall assign the 3PVRO a unique identification number that begins with "3P." A 3PVRO is not deemed registered until the Division issues the 3PVRO its identification number.

(b) A 3PVRO may terminate its registration by filing a completed Form DS-DE 119 reflecting the termination by submitting the form in .pdf form to the Division by email to 3PVRO@dos.fl.gov. A 3PVRO's registration will otherwise automatically terminate at the end of the specific general election cycle for the 3PVRO registered. A 3PVRO may re-register for a subsequent general election cycle. The Division shall reassign the 3PVRO the same identification number if it is determined that the 3PVRO was previously registered and its registration was not otherwise terminated for criminal violations. Upon receipt of a 3PVRO's complete and filed Form DS-DE 119, the Division shall assign the 3PVRO a unique identification number that begins with "3P." A 3PVRO is not deemed registered until the Division issues the 3PVRO its identification number.

~~(e) A registration agent may be a registration agent for one or more 3PVROs.~~

~~(d)~~ (c) If any information in the Form DS-DE 119 filed with the Division changes, including any addition to the list of its employee registration agents, any termination of an employee registration agent, change in information about an employee registration agent, or the termination of the 3PVRO, the 3PVRO shall file within 10 days a completed Form DS-DE 119 reflecting the updated information by submitting the form in .pdf form to the Division by email to 3PVRO@dos.fl.gov. 3PVRO@dos.myflorida.com with the form attached in .pdf format

~~(d)(e)~~ Any 3PVRO that re-registers after having been cancelled shall be reassigned the same identification number if it is determined that its registration was not otherwise terminated for criminal violations.

(4) A registration agent may be a registration agent for one or more 3PVROs.

(5) Voter Registration Applications Provided to and Used by Third-Party Voter Registration Organizations.

(a) All blank voter registration applications provided by the Division and each Supervisor of Elections to a 3PVRO shall include the 3PVRO's identification number in the designated field in the 3PVRO section at on the bottom portion of the front side of each voter registration application in a manner that does not obscure any other entry.

(b) Unless the applicant has already dated the application form, the registration agent or the 3PVRO shall record the date that the 3PVRO collected the application in the "Date Collected" field in the 3PVRO section at a conspicuous space on the bottom portion of the front side of the voter registration application in a manner that does not obscure any other entry. The applicant's date space should not be used. The date printed by the registration agent or the 3PVRO shall be in the following numerical format: MM/DD/YY. For example, if the voter registration applicant completed the application on January 1,

2027, May 15, 2024, the entry in on the "Date Collected" field bottom portion of the front side of the application shall be: 01/01/27 05/15/24.

(c) Each 3PVRO shall ensure that its assigned 3PVRO identification number and the registration agent's initials are recorded in the designated fields in the 3PVRO section at on the bottom portion of the front side of any voter registration application it delivers to the Supervisor of Elections in the applicant's county of residence or the Division in a manner that does not obscure any other entry.

(d)1. All collected voter registration applications, whether complete or incomplete, must be delivered to the Supervisor of Elections in the applicant's county of residence as indicated on the application by either the county written on the application, or if none, by the address on the application or the Division by mail or in person. Delivery or postmark must be within 10 calendar days of collection by the 3PVRO or any of its registration agents. The date the voter signed the application is the date presumed to be the date in which the 3PVRO received or collected the voter registration application. If the 10th day falls on a weekend, holiday, or other day on which the Division or the Supervisor of Elections office is closed, the voter registration application must be delivered or be postmarked by the following business day. If, however, a book closing deadline for any given election for federal or state office falls within the 10-day period described above, all applications collected by a 3PVRO or any of its registration agents before book closing must be actually delivered on or before the book closing deadline.

2. No change.

(e) No change.

(f) Each voter registration application contains a voter's personal information that is not generally available to the public. For purposes of section 97.0575(7), F.S., a person collecting a voter registration application on behalf of a 3PVRO for the reason of providing such application (including the voter's personal information contained therein) to the 3PVRO shall be deemed to be "in compliance with this section" with respect to providing such application to the 3PVRO if the person:

1. Provides such application to the 3PVRO, and

2. Does not retain such application, or any personal information thereon, in whole or part, after providing it to the 3PVRO.

(g) No change.

(6) Referral to Attorney General for Enforcement; Waiver of Fines.

(a) No change.

(b) Any 3PVRO claiming that its failure to deliver a voter registration application within the required timeframe was based upon force majeure or impossibility of performance may

provide a statement to the Office of Election Crimes and Security Division explaining the circumstances constituting force majeure or impossibility of performance.

(c) If the information provided to the Office of Election Crimes and Security Division by the 3PVRO demonstrates that the failure to timely deliver a voter registration application was the result of force majeure or impossibility of performance, the Secretary of State will not refer the violation to the Attorney General for enforcement.

(d) No change.

(e) A 3PVRO may, pursuant to section 97.0575(1)(e)-(f), F.S., require each person collecting or handling voter registration applications on behalf of the 3PVRO to sign written declarations using Form DS-DE 127 declaring under penalty of perjury that he or she has not been convicted of a felony enumerated in section 97.0575(1)(e), F.S., ~~and that he or she is a U.S. citizen.~~ A 3PVRO shall not be subject to a fine pursuant to section 97.0575(1)(e)-(f), F.S., as applicable, for permitting a felon ~~or non-U.S. citizen~~ to handle or collect voter registration applications on behalf of the 3PVRO if the 3PVRO has a Form DS-DE 127 signed by the felon ~~or non-U.S. citizen~~ prior to collecting or handling voter registration applications on behalf of the 3PVRO.

(7) Processing of Voter Registration Applications from a 3PVRO by the Division and Supervisors of Elections and Accounting of Application Forms.

(a) A voter registration official shall record the date of delivery on the bottom portion of the front side of the application in a manner that does not obscure any other entries. An application is considered delivered on the date the application is actually received by the Supervisor of Elections in the applicant's county of residence or the Division, if delivered in person, or, if mailed, the date of the postmark. If a postmark is not present or unclear, the date of delivery is the actual date of receipt by the Supervisor of Elections in the applicant's county of residence or the Division. For a determination of a fine based upon the application being received by mail after the book closing date, a clear postmark on or before the 10th day preceding the date of book closing will excuse the fine. If a 3PVRO delivers more than one application at the same time, those applications shall bear the same date of delivery regardless of when the applications are processed.

(b) No change.

(c) The Division and Supervisors of Elections shall record the number of state or federal voter registration applications they provide to, and receive from, each 3PVRO. Each Supervisor of Elections shall complete and file Form DS-DE 124 by email to 3PVRO@dos.fl.gov ~~3PVRO@dos.myflorida.com~~ with the form attached in .pdf format, by noon of the following business day to report the

number of voter registration applications provided to and received from all 3PVROs the previous business day. A Supervisor of Elections is not required to file Form DS-DE 124 when they did not provide any voter registration applications to, or receive any from, 3PVRO on the preceding business day.

(8) Complaints.

(a) Any person claiming to have provided a completed voter registration application to a 3PVRO but whose name does not appear as an active voter on the voter registration rolls, or whose application was modified without their consent or untimely delivered, may complete and file Form DS-DE 121 by email to OECS@dos.fl.gov ~~OECS@dos.myflorida.com~~ with the form attached in .pdf format or by mail to the Office of Election Elections Crimes and Security.

(b) No change.

(c) Supervisors of Elections shall complete and file Form DS-DE 126 by email to OECS@dos.fl.gov ~~OECS@dos.myflorida.com~~ with the form attached in .pdf format, to report any untimely filed voter registration application submitted by a 3PVRO. A Supervisor of Elections may alternatively mail or deliver a completed Form DS-DE 126 to the Office of Election Elections Crimes and Security by express mail or expedited courier service. For any application containing a 3PVRO's identification number – but no other information indicating it was collected by a 3PVRO, such as a cover letter or a “date delivered” mark, and that was received untimely or after the book closing date the explanatory statement should include a description of the Supervisor's efforts to contact the applicant to confirm that the application was delivered to the 3PVRO.

Rulemaking Authority 20.10(3), 97.012(1), (2), (15), 97.0575(1), (3), (4), (9) (2)–(5) F.S. Law Implemented 97.012(1), (2), (15), 97.021(40)(37), 97.053, 97.0575 F.S. History–New 2-26-09, Amended 5-31-10, 11-2-11, 12-5-12, 9-26-23, ____.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE:
Bilal Faruqi

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Cord Byrd, Secretary of State

DATE PROPOSED RULE WAS APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: September 15, 2026

DATE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN FAR: March 31, 2026

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida Water Management District

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

40D-8.041 Minimum Flows

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of this rulemaking is to revise minimum flows pursuant to Section 373.042, F.S., for the Upper Peace River, located in Polk and Hardee Counties. The effect of the rule is to support the District's water supply

planning, water use permitting, and environmental resource permitting programs.

SUMMARY: Section 373.042, F.S., requires the District to establish minimum flows and levels for water bodies located within the District's boundaries. This rulemaking is necessary to revise the established minimum flows for the Upper Peace River. The establishment and periodic evaluation of minimum flows is required by statute to ensure that the minimum hydrologic requirements of the water resources and ecology of the river and surrounding area are maintained. The minimum flows for the Upper Peace River have been developed using previously peer-reviewed, Governing Board-approved methods.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this rule will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: The District conducted an economic review of the revisions to the rule and determined that the impact or regulatory cost, if any, of the revisions will not exceed any one of the economic analysis criteria in a SERC as set forth in Section 120.541(2)(a), F.S. The revised minimum level for this river segment is unlikely to constitute an additional significant regulatory constraint on groundwater or surface water withdrawals in the area due to existing resource conditions and regulatory constraints in the basin.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 373.044, 373.113, 373.171, F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 373.036, 373.042, 373.0421, F.S.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Mike Bray, Assistant General Counsel, at (813)422-6509, or by email at mike.bray@swfwmd.state.fl.us.

THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

40D-8.041 Minimum Flows.

(1) through (6) No Change.

(7) Minimum Flows for ~~the Upper upper~~ Peace River.

(a) For purposes of this rule, the Upper Peace River in Polk County and Hardee County, Florida, includes the watercourse from the confluence of Lower Saddle Creek and the Peace Creek Drainage Canal near the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Peace River at SR 60 at Bartow, FL gage (Gage No. 02294650) to the USGS Peace River at US 17 at Zolfo Springs, FL gage (Gage No. 02295637). ~~Over the last several decades there has been a significant decline in flow in the upper Peace River, especially during the dry season. One of the major contributing factors is the elimination of baseflow as a result of ground water withdrawals that have lowered the potentiometric surface of the upper Floridian aquifer. In addition, surface water drainage alterations, reduction in surface storage, long term cyclical declines in rainfall and karst openings in the riverbed have played significant roles in reducing flow in the upper Peace River.~~

(b) For minimum flows establishment, the Upper Peace River is divided into three segments: The minimum flows are to ensure that the minimum hydrologic requirements of fish and natural systems associated with the river are met and not jeopardized by withdrawals. At this time only Minimum Low Flows are being established. It is anticipated that mid- and high-minimum flows will be established once the controlling factors that affect those flows are better understood.

1. The upper segment, extending from the confluence of Lower Saddle Creek and the Peace Creek Drainage Canal to the USGS Peace River at Fort Meade, FL gage (Gage No. 02294898);

2. The middle segment, extending from the USGS Peace River at Fort Meade, FL gage (Gage No. 02294898) to the USGS Peace River at Bowling Green, FL gage (Gage No. 02295194); and

3. The lower segment, extending from the USGS Peace River at Bowling Green, FL gage (Gage No. 02295194) to the USGS Peace River at US 17 at Zolfo Springs, FL gage (Gage No. 02295637).

(c) Minimum flows for the upper, middle, and lower segments are defined at the following index gages, respectively: The Minimum Low Flows for the upper Peace River are set forth in Table 8-8 below. The Minimum Low Flows are established based on the lowest acceptable flow under the lowest anticipated flow conditions. This is determined by providing for the hydrologic requirements of biological communities associated with the upper Peace River system, as well as considering non-consumptive uses including fishing, wildlife observation, general recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, canoeing and boating. This determination uses professional experience and judgment to identify key habitats and

hydrologic requirements for specific biotic assemblages. This approach results in establishing Minimum Low Flows for the upper Peace River based on maintaining the higher of the water elevations needed for fish passage (0.6 feet or 7.2 inches) or the lowest wetted perimeter inflection point (as much stream bed coverage as possible for the least amount of flow) as set forth below. A ninety five percent annual exceedance occurs when the flow is greater than the Minimum Low Flow at least ninety-five percent of the days, or 350 days, of a calendar year.

1. USGS Peace River at SR 60 at Bartow, FL gage (Gage No. 02294650),

2. USGS Peace River at Fort Meade, FL gage (Gage No. 02294898), and

3. USGS Peace River at US 17 at Zolfo Springs, FL gage (Gage No. 02295637).

Table 8-8 Minimum Flows for the upper Peace River	
Location/Gage:	Minimum Flow (cubic feet per second):
Bartow / USGS Bartow River Gage No. 02294650	Annual 95% exceedance flow of 17 cfs
Ft. Meade / USGS Ft. Meade River Gage No. 02294898	Annual 95% exceedance flow of 27 cfs
Zolfo Springs / USGS Zolfo Springs River Gage No. 02295637	Annual 95% exceedance flow of 45 cfs

(d) Minimum flows for each segment are block-based and flow-dependent, and were developed using daily average flows at the corresponding index gages - SR 60 at Bartow (Gage No. 02294650), Fort Meade (Gage No. 02294898), and US 17 at Zolfo Springs (Gage No. 02295637) - adjusted for groundwater withdrawals, for the period of record from January 1, 1975, through December 31, 2022, as set forth in Tables 8-XX, 8-YY, and 8-ZZ. Compliance — The Minimum Low Flow is achieved when the measured flow rate is at or above the Minimum Low Flow for three consecutive years. Once the Minimum Low Flow has been achieved for three consecutive years, the Minimum Low Flow is not met when the measured flow rate is below the Minimum Low Flow for two out of ten years commencing the year after achievement. If the two years below the minimum flow occur anytime before the ten year period is complete, the upper Peace River is deemed below its Minimum Low Flow and the three consecutive years above the Minimum Low Flow is again required for compliance. Once the ten year period is complete, the period will roll forward one year each year.

Table 8-XX. Minimum flows for the upper segment of the Upper Peace River, referenced to the index gage at the USGS

Peace River at SR 60 at Bartow (Gage No. 02294650) and adjusted for groundwater withdrawals.

Flow Block	Flow Range	Minimum Flows
Block 1	≤ 30 cfs*	Annual 95% exceedance flow of the low flow threshold of 30 cfs
Block 2	> 30 cfs and ≤ 71 cfs	30 cfs or 88% of the previous day's adjusted flow
Block 3A	> 71 cfs and ≤ 483 cfs	85% of the previous day's adjusted flow
Block 3B	> 483 cfs	93% of the previous day's adjusted

*Based on gaged daily flow.

Table 8-YY. Minimum flows for the middle segment of the Upper Peace River, referenced to the index gage at the USGS Peace River at Fort Meade (Gage No. 02294898) and adjusted for groundwater withdrawals.

Flow Block	Flow Range	Minimum Flows
Block 1	≤ 21 cfs*	Annual 95% exceedance flow of the low flow threshold of 21 cfs
Block 2	> 21 cfs and ≤ 120 cfs	21 cfs or 88% of the previous day's adjusted flow
Block 3A	> 120 cfs and ≤ 529 cfs	90% of the previous day's adjusted flow
Block 3B	> 529 cfs	93% of the previous day's adjusted flow

*Based on gaged daily flow.

Table 8-ZZ. Minimum flows for the lower segment of the Upper Peace River, referenced to the index gage at the USGS Peace River at US 17 at Zolfo Springs (Gage No. 02295637) and adjusted for groundwater withdrawals.

Flow Block	Flow Range	Minimum Flows
Block 1	≤ 40 cfs*	Annual 95% exceedance flow of the low flow threshold of 40 cfs
Block 2	≥ 40 cfs and ≤ 274 cfs	40 cfs or 87% of the previous day's adjusted flow
Block 3A	> 274 cfs and ≤ 1,047 cfs	91% of the previous day's adjusted flow
Block 3B	> 1,047 cfs	93% of the previous day's adjusted flow

*Based on gaged daily flow.

(e) Compliance with the Minimum Low Flow in Block 1 is achieved when the measured flow rate equals or exceeds the low flow threshold for three consecutive years for each Upper Peace River segment. Once the Minimum Low Flow has been achieved for three consecutive years, compliance is considered not met when the measured flow rate falls below the Minimum Low Flow for two out of the following subsequent ten years. If

these two noncompliant years occur before the ten-year period concludes, the segment is deemed below its Minimum Low Flow, and three consecutive compliant years are again required to re-establish compliance. Following completion of the initial ten-year period, the compliance period will advance one year on a rolling basis. Compliance for Blocks 2, 3A, and 3B is achieved as described in Tables 8-XX, 8-YY, and 8-ZZ, above.

(f) Status assessments of the Minimum Flows for the Upper Peace River will be performed to determine whether the flow is below, or projected to fall below, the Minimum Flows. Each assessment is independent of, and does not constitute, a determination of water use permit or environmental resource permit compliance. Permit compliance is a separate regulatory function and is not addressed in this subsection.

1. The District will conduct an annual evaluation of Minimum Flows to determine the extent to which flows at USGS Gages 02294650, 02294898, and 02295637 have been reduced due to withdrawals as of the date of the assessment. The annual evaluation will include a review of:

- a. Flow data;
- b. Water withdrawals;
- c. Aquifer water levels;
- d. Rainfall data; and
- e. Hydrologic modeling.

2. The District will evaluate the Minimum Flows every five years as part of the regional water supply planning process. This evaluation will also include the use of hydrologic modeling.

3. If the Minimum Flows are being met based on either the annual evaluation or the evaluation conducted as part of the regional water supply planning process, no further action is required beyond continued monitoring.

(8) through (27) No Change

Rulemaking Authority 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.036, 373.042, 373.0421 FS. History—New 10-5-74, Amended 12-31-74, Formerly 16J-0.15, 40D-1.601, Amended 10-1-84, 8-7-00, 2-6-06, 4-6-06, 1-1-07, 11-25-07, 2-18-08, 3-2-08, 5-12-08, 5-10-09, 3-23-10, 3-28-10, 7-12-10, 8-2-10 (8), 8-2-10 (15), 10-16-12, 3-20-13(16), 3-20-13(17), 6-20-16, 3-15-18, 6-19-18, 4-15-20, 8-9-20, 4-12-21, 4-7-22, 3-27-24, 6-12-24,_____.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE:
Southwest Florida Water Management District

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board

DATE PROPOSED RULE WAS APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: August 25, 2026

DATE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN FAR: September 16, 2026

AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

Medicaid

RULE NO.: 59G-4.130 RULE TITLE: Home Health Visit Services

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the amendment to Rule 59G-4.130, Florida Administrative Code, (F.A.C.), is to incorporate by reference the Florida Medicaid Home Health Services Coverage Policy, September 2026, and revise the rule title.

SUMMARY: The revised policy removes licensed practical nurses as service providers to comport with Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 440.70 and includes coverage of Family Home Health Aide Services to align with the intent and requirements of Chapter 2025-171, Laws of Florida (L.O.F.).

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this rule will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: A checklist was prepared by the Agency to determine the need for a SERC. Based on this information at the time of the analysis and pursuant to section 120.541, Florida Statutes, the rule will not require legislative ratification.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 409.903, 409.919, 409.961 FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 400.4765, 409.902, 409.903, 409.905, 409.907, 409.908, 409.9081, 409.912, 409.913, 409.973 FS.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Caitlin Mullins via MedicaidRuleComments@ahca.myflorida.com or by phone (850)412-4003. Please note that a preliminary draft of the reference material, if available, will be posted at <https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/rules.html>. Official comments to be entered into the rule record will be received from the date of this notice until 5:00 p.m., October 15, 2026.

Comments may be emailed to
 MedicaidRuleComments@ahca.myflorida.com.

THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

59G-4.130 Home Health ~~Visit~~ Services.

(1) This rule applies to all providers rendering Florida Medicaid home health and family home health aide ~~visit~~ services to recipients.

(2) All providers must be in compliance with the provisions of the Florida Medicaid Home Health ~~Visit~~ Services Coverage Policy, September ~~2026~~ 2024, incorporated by reference. The policy is available on the Agency for Health Care Administration's (AHCA) website at <https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/rules.html> ~~<http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/review/index.shtml>~~, and available at <http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20214> ~~<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-16937>~~.

(3) The following forms are incorporated by reference and are available on the AHCA website at <https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/rules.html> ~~<http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/review/index.shtml>~~, and in the Florida Medicaid Home Health ~~Visit~~ Services Policy, September ~~2026~~ 2024.

(a) through (d), No change.

Rulemaking Authority 409.903, 409.919, 409.961 FS. Law Implemented 400.4765, 409.902, 409.903, 409.905, 409.907, 409.908, 409.9081, 409.912, 409.913, 409.973 FS. History—New 1-1-77, Amended 4-1-78, 9-28-78, 1-24-79, 7-17-83, Formerly 10C-7.44, Amended 6-1-88, 4-9-89, 1-1-90, 5-26-93, Formerly 10C-7.044, Amended 3-14-95, 12-27-95, 5-7-96, 2-9-98, 5-30-00, 11-24-03, 10-30-07, 12-29-08, 6-25-12, 6-25-13, 10-14-14, 11-17-16, 10-1-24__.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE:
 Caitlin Mullins

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Shevaun L. Harris

DATE PROPOSED RULE WAS APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: September 18, 2026

DATE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN FAR: September 8, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Division of Administrative Hearings

RULE NOS.: RULE TITLES:

60Q-6.101	Scope
60Q-6.102	Definitions
60Q-6.103	Pleadings and Proposed Orders
60Q-6.104	Representation and Appearance of Counsel

60Q-6.105	Commencing a Case, Subsequent Petitions
60Q-6.106	Consolidation and Venue
60Q-6.108	Filing and Service
60Q-6.110	Mediation, Generally
60Q-6.111	Authority and Duties of Mediator
60Q-6.113	Pretrial Procedure
60Q-6.114	Discovery
60Q-6.115	Motion Practice
60Q-6.116	Prosecution of Claims and Petitions for Benefits
60Q-6.117	Emergency Conferences
60Q-6.122	Motion for Rehearing and Amending or Vacating Order
60Q-6.123	Settlements Under Section 440.20(11), Florida Statutes
60Q-6.124	Payment of Attorney's Fees and Costs Other Than Pursuant to Section 440.20(11), Florida Statutes
60Q-6.126	Disqualification or Recusal of Judges
60Q-6.127	Procedure for Relief from Appellate Filing Fee and Costs

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Procedural rules for adjudication of workers' compensation claims were implemented on February 23, 2003, pursuant to the mandate in section 440.45, Florida Statutes, that the Division of Administrative Hearings adopt procedural rules. Since sections 440.015 and 440.44(2), Florida Statutes, require that the workers' compensation system be efficient and self-executing and that the Division of Administrative Hearings assume an active and forceful role in achieving that goal, it is necessary to amend the existing rules to incorporate changes that will improve the adjudicatory process based upon experience in utilizing the existing rules.

SUMMARY: The proposed amendments update procedures relating to filing and service, mediation, pretrial and discovery, motion practice, hearings, settlements, rehearing, and attorney's fees and costs.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this rule will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: The Agency's SERC Checklist reflects no adverse impact and no direct or indirect regulatory costs resulting from the proposed rules.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 61.14, 440.25, 440.44, 440.45, F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 61.14, 440.105, 440.192, 440.20, 440.25, 440.271, 440.29, 440.30, 440.32, 440.33, 440.34, 440.345, 440.44, 440.442, 440.45, F.S.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW (IF NOT REQUESTED, THIS HEARING WILL NOT BE HELD):

DATE AND TIME: October 15, 2026, 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

PLACE: ZOOM at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82562532116>.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 7 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: ADA@doah.state.fl.us or (850)488-9675. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Loretta Sloan at DOAH.Info@doah.state.fl.us or (850)488-9675. You may also find a copy of the proposed rule on the DOAH website at www.doah.state.fl.us and OJCC website at www.jcc.state.fl.us.

THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

60Q-6.101 Scope.

These rules of procedure apply in all workers' compensation proceedings before the judges of compensation claims. They may be abbreviated as Fla.Admin.CodeR. 60Q-6.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06,_____.

60Q-6.102 Definitions.

(1) through (4) No change.

(5) "Electronic filing" (e-filing ~~efiling~~) means uploaded to the appropriate case docket using the electronic judges of compensation claims' e-filing system (e-JCC) accessed through a link on the OJCC website at www.jcc.state.fl.us.

(6) No change.

(7) "Filed" means received by the ~~clerk of the~~ OJCC Clerk in Tallahassee.

(8) through (9) No change.

(10) "Petition for benefits" means a pleading invoking the jurisdiction of the OJCC and subject to the requirements of Section ~~Sections~~ 440.192(1) through (4), F.S.

(11) No change.

(12) "Personally conferred" means communications in person, by telephone, e-mail ~~email~~, text messaging, or some other communication mechanism that permits an immediate, contemporaneous response.

(13) "Style of the proceeding" means representations on the first page of any pleading or filing that includes only:

(a) "State of Florida, Division of Administrative Hearings, Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims;"

(b) The names of all parties accompanied by labeling of "employee/claimant" and "employer/carrier/servicing agent;" and

(c) The OJCC case number, accident date, and assigned judge.

No party addresses, telephone numbers, or other information shall be included in the style of the proceeding.

(14)~~(13)~~ No change.

(15)~~(14)~~ No change.

(16)~~(15)~~ No change.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.192(1), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14, 2-14-22, 3-15-23,_____.

60Q-6.103 Pleadings and Proposed Orders.

(1) Pleadings. All documents filed with the OJCC shall:

(a) Be typewritten or printed on 8 1/2" ~~8 1/2"~~ by 11" white paper, unless electronically filed;

(b) through (c) No change.

(d) Contain the style of the proceeding; the case number, if any; the date of accident; the party on whose behalf the document is filed; the subject matter of the document; and the name, mailing address, e-mail ~~email~~ address, and telephone number of the party or, if represented, the party's attorney of record (including the attorney's Florida Bar number) filing the document;

(e) through (f) No change.

(2) No change.

~~(3) All pleadings filed in paper form shall contain in the bottom 1 1/2 inches of each page only the following: "OJCC Case #" followed by the case number and "page #" followed by the page number.~~

~~(3)(4) Proposed Orders. Except as provided in subsection 60Q-6.115(3), F.A.C., proposed orders shall not be submitted unless requested by the judge. They shall be clearly indexed in the docket as "proposed orders" and shall be sent to all other parties or, if represented, their attorneys of record prior to being submitted to the judge. Proposed orders shall be a separate document and not be included as a part of a motion.~~

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.192(1), (2)(a), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14,_____.

60Q-6.104 Representation and Appearance of Counsel.

(1) Appearance of Counsel. An attorney who files a petition or claim on behalf of a party has entered an appearance and shall be deemed the party's attorney of record. All other attorneys appearing for a party in an existing case shall file promptly with the OJCC Clerk judge a notice of appearance and serve copies on all other parties or, if represented, the parties' attorneys of record. The notice of appearance shall include the style of the proceeding; the case number; the name of the party on whose behalf the attorney is appearing; and the name, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and Florida Bar number of the attorney. Any disclosure filing required by the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar shall be included in or attached to the notice of appearance and no separate disclosure shall be filed. Attorneys shall keep their e-JCC profile current by logging into e-JCC and updating their mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers when such information changes.

(2) Substitution or Withdrawal of Counsel. During the pendency of any issues before the judge, an attorney of record remains the attorney of record until:

(a) A stipulation for substitution has been filed with the OJCC Clerk judge and served on all other parties or, if represented, their attorneys of record; or

(b) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12,_____.

60Q-6.105 Commencing a Case; Subsequent Petitions.

(1) through (2) No change.

(3) For any claim or dispute within the jurisdiction of the OJCC but not subject to a petition for benefits, the claimant or moving party shall file with the ~~clerk of the~~ OJCC Clerk a request for assignment of case number.

(4) through (5) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.192, 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 11-10-14, 2-14-22,_____.

60Q-6.106 Consolidation and Venue.

(1) through (2) No change.

(3) Proceedings in any venue may be conducted virtually, in the discretion of the assigned judge. The parties and counsel appearing virtually shall activate their camera unless excused by the judge.

(4) A motion to change venue shall be filed with the OJCC Clerk judge and shall contain the signature of the moving party, or, if represented, the party's attorney of record.

(5) through (6) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.25(4)(d), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14, 3-15-23,_____.

60Q-6.108 Filing and Service.

(1) Filing.

(a) All documents filed with the OJCC, except documents filed by parties who are not represented by an attorney, shall be filed by electronic means through the OJCC website. Any document filed in paper form by U.S. mail, facsimile, or delivery shall be filed only with the OJCC Clerk in Tallahassee. Documents shall be filed by only one method, e-filing, facsimile, or U.S. mail, and shall not be filed multiple times. Duplicate filings will not be docketed and will be destroyed.

(b) Any pleading or other paper filed in a proceeding shall be served on all other parties or, if represented, their attorneys of record at the time the document is filed. Petitions for benefits shall be served on the parties as provided in Section 440.192(1), F.S., and copies of the petitions shall be served on counsel for the opposing parties, if known, at the time the petition is filed as provided in this rule. Service made by a represented party's attorney to another represented party's attorney shall be by electronic mail, facsimile, or U.S. mail. The use of electronic mail by parties or attorneys is approved only when the serving party or attorney uses the opposing party's or attorney's e-mail email address that the opposing party or attorney, or their designated representative has registered with the OJCC, as listed in e-JCC, absent good cause. If an attorney has not registered their electronic mail address with the OJCC, documents may be served on that attorney at the e-mail address on record with The Florida Bar. Service by or to an unrepresented party shall be by electronic mail, if available, or by U.S. mail or facsimile. Any OJCC service of a final order by U.S. mail shall be mailed by the OJCC Clerk instead of any other OJCC office, and shall be mailed the same day the final order is filed with the OJCC Clerk. Electronic mail sent by the OJCC on behalf of the serving party through the e-JCC program shall be the only approved alternative to certified U.S. mail for service of petitions for benefits and responses to petitions for benefits. When a represented party e-files a pleading or other paper with the OJCC, that party must serve the other party or parties, or their designated representative, with a copy of that pleading or paper simultaneously by electronic mail, if available. In the event a represented party files a pleading or other paper with the OJCC by electronic means, that party shall be required to serve the other party or parties, or their designated representative, with a copy of that pleading or paper simultaneously by electronic means, if available.

(c) An attorney signing a pleading acknowledges that he or she is bound by the certifications in Section 440.32(3), F.S., and the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

(d)(e) The following documents shall not be filed with the OJCC unless relevant to an issue to be heard and not more than 10 days but at least two days before the scheduled hearing: requests or notices to produce and objections or responses thereto, deposition transcripts, correspondence between counsel or parties, correspondence to the judge or the judge's staff, subpoenas, and returns of service, notices of unavailability, mileage reimbursement forms unless attached to a petition, requests to produce or responses thereto, postal or delivery service tracking information or proof of delivery, notices of filing, proof of service, notices of disclosure pursuant to any rules regulating The Florida Bar except as part of a notice of appearance, or notices of change of address for any attorney, carrier, servicing agent, or third party administrator. The party filing any document is representing that some action by the OJCC is needed.

(e)(d) Except for filing using e-JCC, electronic mail or facsimile of documents to the judge shall be used only when the judge authorizes such use for that document; otherwise, the document will not be considered. Absent such judicial authorization, parties and attorneys shall not e-mail the OJCC filings or requests for relief unless in case of declared state of emergency and unavailability of OJCC electronic filing.

(f)(e) No change.

(g)(f) No change.

(h)(g) No change.

(i)(h) Any document filed electronically shall be uploaded individually, except that exhibits and supporting documents, and proposed orders for any motion may be filed along with the motion. In naming uploaded motions, counsel shall specifically identify the type of motion by naming the relief sought. In naming depositions filed electronically, counsel shall include the deponent's name and the date of the deposition. If an uploaded document is specifically intended as a hearing exhibit at the time of filing, the name shall also include "proposed hearing exhibit" and the date of the scheduled hearing. All uploaded documents shall include sufficient specificity in naming to allow identification of the document from the docket remark.

(j)(i) No change.

(k)(j) The clerk of the OJCC Clerk shall, upon order of the assigned judge, place a document under seal and render it thereby viewable only upon further order of the assigned judge.

(2) Service. Service is effectuated by:

(a) through (c) No change.

(d) Placing the document in the U.S. mail, except when the original pleading or paper was filed with the OJCC by electronic means, in which case simultaneous electronic service

on the other party or parties must be made, as referenced in paragraph (1)(b), above; or

(e) through (f) No change.

(3) No change.

(4) Service by delivery after the OJCC Clerk's office in Tallahassee is scheduled to close at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) shall be deemed to have been made on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

(5) through (8) No change.

(9) All attorneys filing documents in workers' compensation proceedings before the OJCC shall register to use the e-JCC electronic filing system. Each such attorney shall register an e-mail email address and thereby consent to receive documents from other counsel and the OJCC at that address. Each attorney shall be responsible for amending that e-mail email address as necessary for it to remain current.

(10) through (11) No change.

(12) All employers, self-insurers, third-party administrators, and carriers shall register a single, general delivery e-mail, email address with the OJCC for receipt of all electronically served documents, including petitions for benefits. The foregoing registration acknowledges that the registrant is authorized to do business in Florida and agrees to accept service by electronic mail. Employers may register a single, general delivery, e-mail address with the OJCC for receipt of all electronically served documents, including petitions for benefits, subject to the same acknowledgment. All employers, self-insurers, third-party administrators, and carriers shall register a single, general delivery U.S. mail address and a single telephone number with the OJCC. The e-JCC system will maintain a list of all registered companies, and their e-mail addresses. Each such registered employer, self-insurer, third-party administrator, and carrier shall be responsible for amending name, e-mail email address, physical address, and telephone number as necessary for it to remain current. Original registrations and amendments to information shall be submitted to the OJCC Clerk by company representative via e-mail.

(13) All claimants shall register an e-mail address with the OJCC for receipt of all electronically served documents.

(14)(13) No change.

(15)(14) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.192, 440.25(1), (4)(a), (4)(c), (4)(e), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14, 2-14-22, _____.

60Q-6.110 Mediation, Generally.

(1) No change.

(2) Parties who have agreed to private mediation or to reschedule re-schedule private mediation shall file with the OJCC Clerk judge at least 30 days prior to any scheduled

mediation a notice substituting private mediation for state mediation or ~~rescheduling re-scheduling~~ private mediation. If such notice is filed less than 30 days prior, it shall be treated as a motion, and attendance and participation at the scheduled state mediation shall not be excused, absent an order finding good cause to excuse this time requirement. The notice shall include the name of the private mediator, along with the date and time of the private mediation and shall state that the private mediation meets the statutory deadline, unless the deadline is waived by all parties.

(a) The Deputy Chief Judge shall assign a mediator and mediation date for each petition filed. The state mediation conference may be rescheduled, within the 130-day statutory period, upon mutual request of the parties ~~and agreement of the assigned mediator~~. The parties shall jointly review the mediator availability ~~mediator's~~ calendar online to identify potential alternative dates and times before contacting the OJCC Clerk's office ~~mediator~~ with a request to reschedule. Any such change in date shall be considered a rescheduling and not a continuance of the mediation. ~~Upon agreement of the parties, and approval by an alternate state mediator, mediation for the case may be transferred to the alternate state mediator provided any pending mediation is held within the 130 day statutory period. Permission of the mediator from whom it is transferred is not necessary. The alternate state mediator shall be responsible for placing the mediation on the alternate state mediator's calendar.~~

(b) through (e) No change.

(3) No change.

(4) If the parties resolve all issues, or all issues except for attorney's fees, prior to the scheduled mediation conference, the attorney or unrepresented claimant who has filed a petition for benefits shall file a pleading in order to cancel the corresponding mediation. The pleading must be filed prior to the scheduled mediation and shall indicate the manner in which each issue was resolved. The preparation and filing of this pleading are not the responsibility of the mediator. If mediation occurs, no such notice of resolution may be filed in lieu of the mediation report and agreement, which shall be filed.

(5) State mediations shall presumptively be conducted virtually on a video platform. The assigned mediator shall appear by video for video mediations. Unless the notice of mediation includes the login or call in information for the mediation, the assigned mediator is responsible for providing that information to all parties or counsel. The assigned mediator may allow telephonic appearance at any video mediation. The following persons shall attend the mediation conference: the claimant; the claims representative of the carrier/servicing agent, which representative must have full authority to resolve all the issues and/or settle the case; the employer, if uninsured; the insured or self-insured employer, if the employer/servicing agent does not have full authority to settle the issues; and the

attorneys for the parties. The appearance of an attorney for a party does not dispense with the required video or live attendance of the party. No party shall appear at the mediation conference by telephone, whether mediation is live or virtual, unless such appearance is approved in advance by the mediator. Any party appearing by telephone has stipulated to be bound by that party's attorney of record's signature on the mediation agreement report.

(a) The adjuster, if represented by counsel, may attend the live or virtual mediation by phone unless an objection is filed with the mediator on the basis of good cause. The parties may agree, in writing, that any party may appear telephonically. In the absence of such agreement, the mediator shall have discretion to allow any party and/or that party's attorney of record to appear at the live or virtual mediation conference by telephone, except as provided in paragraph (2)(c). The party requesting an appearance by telephone must furnish a written request to the mediator and the opposing party or, if represented, the party's attorney of record no fewer than five days prior to the mediation conference. The expense of telephonic attendance shall be borne by the person or party attending by telephone. Each party and attorney attending a virtual mediation is responsible to have adequate computer hardware, signal strength, internet bandwidth, and premises with/from which to attend mediation. All parties and counsel attending virtually by video shall activate their camera unless excused by the mediator.

(b) Any person attending mediation virtually shall provide an e-mail address for use in exchanging documents during the mediation. Any mediation, except when the outcome is an impasse, is not concluded until the signed agreement report is returned to the mediator. The signed agreement ~~report~~ shall be returned within 72 hours ~~unless excused by the mediator~~. If the agreement is not returned to the mediator within 72 hours, the mediation shall be marked "impasse" in the OJCC database.

(c) No change.

(6) No change.

(7) Immediately following the conclusion of a mediation conference in an open OJCC case, the mediator, whether state, adjunct, or private, shall prepare a mediation ~~agreement~~ report stating which issues or claims in dispute are resolved and which remain unresolved. The mediation ~~agreement~~ report shall identify by filing date each petition mediated. In the case of private mediation, the claimant shall file with the OJCC Clerk judge within five business days of the mediation conference the mediator's mediation ~~agreement~~ report and agreement if any. Signatures of the parties on the signed mediation agreement report may be an original, electronic signature by means approved by the Deputy Chief Judge, or facsimile and signatures may be on different copies of the agreement ~~report~~.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.25(1)-(4), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14, 2-14-22, 3-15-23,_____.

60Q-6.111 Authority and Duties of Mediator.

(1) Authority of Mediator.

(a) No change.

(b) The mediation shall be virtual unless the parties have received approval for a live mediation. Any party seeking an in-person a live mediation in a district office may request same by motion filed from the assigned mediator no later than 30 days before the date of the scheduled state mediation. ~~The mediator's decision to hold a live mediation may result in reassignment to a different mediator.~~ Any request for non-virtual mediation in a location other than a district office shall be by motion directed to the Deputy Chief Judge.

(c) through (d) No change.

(2) through (4) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.25(1)-(4), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 11-10-14, 3-15-23,_____.

60Q-6.113 Pretrial Procedure.

(1) through (6) No change.

(7) The judge shall record the pretrial hearing by stenographic or electronic means at the request of any party.

(8) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.25(2)-(4), 440.29(2), 440.33(1), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14, 2-14-22,_____.

60Q-6.114 Discovery.

(1) No change.

(2) Depositions.

(a) No change.

(b) Approval of the judge is not necessary to take a deposition by telephone or video teleconference. If a deposition is taken by telephone, the oath shall be administered in the physical presence of the witness by a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths, unless the parties stipulate to administration of the oath telephonically. If a deposition is taken by video teleconference, the oath may be administered in the physical presence of the witness by a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths, or the oath may be administered even if not in the physical presence of the witness if the person administering the oath can both see and hear the witness being sworn and verifies their identity.

(3) Production and entry on land. Any party may seek production of documents or other tangible things from other parties or non-parties and may seek entry onto land or other property as provided in the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

The initial disclosure process as provided in Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.280 shall not apply in workers' compensation disputes. Documents shall be delivered in electronic form if so requested unless the judge determines good cause has been shown to produce paper copies.

(4) No change.

(5) The judge may enter orders to effectuate discovery, including orders compelling discovery, protective orders, and orders imposing sanctions as provided in the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 60Q-6.125, F.A.C., for failure to comply with or for using discovery methods not specifically authorized by statute. For good cause shown, the judge may enlarge or shorten applicable timeframes for complying with discovery.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.30, 440.33(1), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14,_____.

60Q-6.115 Motion Practice.

(1) through (2) No change.

(3) A motion which is unopposed shall state why an order is necessary to execute the parties' agreement ~~and shall be accompanied by a proposed order which has a title describing the action to be taken.~~ The motion ~~and proposed order~~ shall specify the relief being requested or ordered in reasonable detail and not merely by reference to any other document.

(4) through (6) No change.

(7) Non-evidentiary motions and procedural matters may be determined with a ruling set forth in the case docket by the judge, as if announced on the record, and without any document or further explanation, and the docket remark ruling must be served. Any party may file a motion for rehearing to request an order with findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Rulemaking Authority 440.25(4)(h), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.25(4)(h), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 2-14-22,_____.

60Q-6.116 Prosecution of Claims and Petitions for Benefits.

(1) through (5) No change.

(6) Any attorney or unrepresented claimant who has filed a petition for benefits must file a pleading with the OJCC Clerk judge in order to cancel the corresponding final hearing. The pleading must be filed prior to the scheduled final hearing and shall indicate the manner in which each issue was resolved. Upon receipt of such cancellation pleading, the judge shall change the status of the affected petition or petitions in the OJCC database. Cases with no currently pending issues scheduled for mediation or hearing shall be reflected in the OJCC database as "inactive." Upon changing a case status from active to inactive, the OJCC Clerk central clerk shall issue an order documenting such status change. In the event such a

change to “inactive” is erroneous, the assigned judge may issue an order vacating the prior order and restoring the case to “active.”

(7) No more than 10 days but no less than two business days prior to the final hearing, each party is required to file a brief memorandum consisting of a statement of relevant facts and written argument, which shall include filing dates or docket ID for any evidentiary documents which will be relied upon at trial. All depositions and documentary evidence, including known impeachment and rebuttal evidence a party intends to offer into evidence, shall be filed with the memorandum. Any evidence which is not capable of electronic filing, including but not limited to diagnostic films or audio or audiovisual recordings shall be filed with the OJCC Clerk contemporaneously with the memorandum and served on all parties by the same method, U.S. mail, delivery, etc., as delivered to the OJCC Clerk’s judge’s office. In the event of a rescheduling ~~re-scheduling~~ or continuance, documents timely filed pursuant to this rule need not be re-filed prior to the rescheduled ~~re-scheduled~~ or continued hearing. Documentary evidence not timely filed may be excluded from evidence, absent a written stipulation of the parties or an order extending the deadline for filing for good cause shown.

(8) through (12) No change.

(13) If a party dies and the claim is not thereby extinguished, the judge may order substitution of the proper parties. The motion for substitution may be made by any party or by the successors or representatives of the deceased party and shall be served on all parties and upon interested persons not parties, including known survivors, as provided in Rule 60Q-6.115, F.A.C. Unless the motion for substitution is made within 90 days after the death is suggested upon the record by service of a statement of the fact of the death in the manner provided for the service of the motion, the action shall be dismissed as to the deceased party.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.25(4), 440.29(2), 440.33(1), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14, 2-14-22, 3-15-23,_____.

60Q-6.117 Emergency Conferences.

(1) A written request for an emergency conference shall be filed and served by electronic transmission ~~mail~~ or facsimile on all other parties or, if represented, their attorneys of record. It shall set forth in detail the facts giving rise to the request, its legal basis, the factual or medical basis for the claim that there is a bona fide emergency involving the health, safety, or welfare of an employee, and the specific relief sought. Any documents relied upon should be specifically referenced or attached.

(2) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.25(4)(g), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12,_____.

60Q-6.122 Motion for Rehearing and Amending or Vacating Order.

(1) A motion for rehearing shall state specifically the grounds on which it is based and should not be used to re-argue issues already determined. A motion for rehearing ~~re-hearing~~ shall be filed and served within 7 ~~10~~ days from the date of the order sought to be reviewed. Any response to the motion shall be filed within 7 days of service of the motion. The judge shall rule on the motion within 15 ~~10~~ days of service of the motion. ~~Any response to the motion shall be filed within five days of service of the motion. If the judge has not ruled by the close of business 10 days after service, the motion shall be deemed denied.~~

(2) No change.

~~(3) A motion for re-hearing does not toll the time within which an order becomes final or an appeal may be filed.~~

~~(3)(4) Abbreviated final orders are not subject to a motion for rehearing re-hearing.~~

~~(4)(5) A judge, on the judge’s own initiative or on the motion of any party, may vacate or amend an order not yet final to correct clerical or technical errors, or where due consideration of a motion for rehearing re-hearing cannot be made before the order becomes final.~~

~~(5)(6) Notwithstanding subsection 60Q-6.115(4), F.A.C., if the motion for rehearing re-hearing is directed to an appealable order, the moving party may request a hearing on the motion which the judge may schedule if there are exceptional circumstances or good cause shown in the motion.~~

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14,_____.

60Q-6.123 Settlements Under Section 440.20(11), Florida Statutes.

(1) Settlements under Section 440.20(11)(a) or (b), F.S., involving unrepresented claimants.

(a) When a joint petition signed by the parties is filed pursuant to Section 440.20(11)(a) or (b), F.S., it shall be accompanied by:

1. through 4. No change.

5. A status statement from the OJCC or such other source as designated by the Deputy Chief Judge regarding any child support arrearage balance according to ~~Department of Revenue records, and a status statement regarding any child support arrearage balance according to~~ the Florida Clerks of the Circuit and County Courts, as to whether the claimant has or owes any child support arrearage and, if so, the amount thereof;

6. through 7. No change.

8. A letter or statement in the settlement stipulation from counsel stating that the carrier will issue a check in the amount of the arrearage or such other amount to be approved by the judge and that the check will be sent to ~~the Department of Revenue or~~ the Florida Clerks of the Circuit and County Courts, Central Depository;

9. through 11. No change.

(b) through (d) No change.

(2) Settlements under Section 440.20(11)(c), (d), and (e), F.S.

(a) When a motion for approval of attorney's fees and child support allocation is filed pursuant to Section 440.20(11)(c), (d), or (e), F.S., it shall be signed by the claimant and the claimant's attorney, furnished to all other parties, and contain:

1. through 4. No change.

5. An attorney's fee data sheet setting forth the benefits obtained by claimant's counsel and the value of those benefits, and, depending upon the date of accident and the type of benefit involved, should the claimant's attorney seek a fee in excess of the statutory percentage, an affidavit specifying the particular statutory criteria forming the basis for the variance and detailing the amount and circumstances of attorney's fees previously paid to Claimant's attorney in the case;

6. A status statement from the OJCC or such other source as designated by the Deputy Chief Judge regarding ~~any child support arrearage balance according to the Department of Revenue records, and a status statement regarding~~ any child support arrearage balance according to the Florida Clerks of the Circuit and County Courts, as to whether the claimant has an arrearage or owes past due child support and, if so, the amount thereof; a sworn statement by the employee that all existing child support obligations have been disclosed in the joint petition; and a letter from counsel stating that the carrier will issue a check in the amount of the arrearage and/or past due child support or such other amount to be approved by the judge or that claimant's counsel will deposit the settlement proceeds in a trust account and will issue a check in the amount of the arrearage and/or past due child support or such other amount to be approved by the judge and that the check will be sent to ~~the Department of Revenue or~~ the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, Central Depository;

7. No change.

8. The OJCC ~~shall may~~ obtain child support arrearage data from the ~~Florida Department of Revenue and the Clerk of the various Circuit and County Courts. The OJCC shall list the counties for which such information is available to the OJCC on the internet.~~ For all Florida counties those agencies/counties listed, parties may obtain child support arrearage information through written inquiry to the OJCC.

(3) through (5) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 61.14(8)(a), 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 61.14(8)(a), 440.105(3)(c), 440.20(11), 440.34, 440.345, 440.45(1)(a), (4), (5) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 2-28-13, 11-10-14, 2-14-22, ____.

60Q-6.124 Payment of Attorney's Fees and Costs Other Than Pursuant to Section 440.20(11), Florida Statutes.

(1) Payment of Undisputed Attorney's Fees and Costs by Claimant. The claimant and his or her attorney may jointly move for the judge to approve the payment of an attorney's fee and reimbursement of costs. The motion shall be served on all parties and include a statement that claimant's counsel has not previously secured or received a fee on the benefits for which a fee is now being sought and, the claimant's signature, and an attorney's fee data sheet setting forth the benefits secured by claimant's counsel and the value of the benefits.

(2) Payment of Undisputed Attorney's Fees and Costs by Employer/Carrier/Servicing Agent. The employee and the employer/ carrier/servicing agent may stipulate to the payment of attorney's fees and costs. The stipulation submitted for the judge's approval shall be accompanied by an attorney's fee data sheet. If claimant's counsel is seeking payment of a fee from the employer/carrier which exceeds the statutory fee, counsel must submit an affidavit establishing the basis for approval of the fee including the amount of attorney's fees previously paid to Claimant's attorney in the case. The counsel seeking a fee must provide the claimant must be provided with notice of any stipulation providing for an employer/carrier-paid attorney's fee.

(3) No change.

(4) Payment of Disputed Attorney's Fees and Costs – Appellate. Absent any contrary instruction from the District Court of Appeal, the following provisions of this rule shall apply in all matters where the Court awarded entitlement to appellate attorneys' fees and/or costs: Upon issuance of mandate by the appellate court in a matter awarding attorney's fees, the awarded party shall serve and file a verified petition to determine the amount of appellate attorney's fee and costs within 15 days from the date of the order entered by the court.

(a) The parties may within 20 days of the issuance of the mandate submit a joint stipulation that documents an agreement between the parties resolving all attorneys' fees and costs awarded by the appellate court. The claimant must be provided with notice of any stipulation providing for an employer/carrier paid attorneys' fee.

(b) Upon the expiration of the 20 days provided for in paragraph (a) and if the parties have not filed a stipulation, the awarded party shall serve and file a verified motion with the OJCC, within 20 days thereafter, to have the JCC determine the amount of appellate attorneys' fees and costs owed.

The verified motion must include:

1. A statement of the facts relied on in support of the verified motion;

2. The statutory and legal basis relied on for entitlement to attorneys' fees and costs;

3. A detailed chronological listing of all time devoted to the appellate matter for which fees are sought; and

4. A detailed list of all costs incurred in the appeal sought to be reimbursed by the opposing party.

(c) Within 20 days after a verified motion is filed under this rule, the opposing party or parties shall file a verified response to the motion, with failure to file a timely and specific response detailing matters that are disputed resulting, absent good cause, in acceptance of the allegations in the verified motion as true.

(5) All motions and stipulations for attorney fees shall be electronically filed, and the filing attorney shall input data in that filing process to document fee and costs sought, benefits obtained, and other justification for fees and costs.

~~(6)(5)~~ No change.

~~(7)(6)~~ No later than September 1 of each year, all self-insurers, third-party administrators, and carriers shall report by the OJCC electronic fee reporting portal e-JCC to the OJCC the amount of all attorney's fees paid to their defense attorneys in connection with workers' compensation claims during the prior July 1 through June 30 fiscal year.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.32, 440.34, 440.345, 440.45(1)(a), (4), (5) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 11-1-06, 10-31-10, 10-31-12, 11-10-14,_____.

60Q-6.126 Disqualification or Recusal of Judges.

(1) No change.

(2) Upon entry of an order of disqualification or after the voluntary recusal of a judge, the Deputy Chief Judge shall re-assign the case to another judge.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.442, 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. History—New 2-23-03, Amended 10-31-12, 2-14-22,_____.

60Q-6.127 Procedure for Relief from Appellate Filing Fee and Costs.

The procedure for relief from payment of both the appellate filing fee and from the costs of the preparation of the record on appeal for the review of any order of a judge on the ground of indigency shall be in accordance with Fla. R. App. P. 9.180.

Rulemaking Authority 440.45(1)(a), (4) FS. Law Implemented 440.271 FS. History—New 11-1-06, Amended 10-31-12,_____.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE:
David Langham, Deputy Chief Judge of Compensation Claims.
NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Darren A. Schwartz, Director and Chief Judge.

DATE PROPOSED RULE WAS APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: September 9, 2026

DATE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN FAR: March 31, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

RULE NOS.: RULE TITLES:

61A-8.001 Safety Standards

61A-8.002 Training Curriculum

61A-8.003 Enforcement

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: 61A-8.001 Safety Standards. The purpose and effect of this proposed new rule is to implement the safety standards and security requirements of the Convenience Business Security Act (sections 812.1701-812.175, Fla. Stat.), as particularly set forth in section 812.173, Fla. Stat. The rule is intended to prevent violent crimes and thereby protect employees and the consumer public at late-night convenience businesses; and also create security standards that are uniform throughout this state for late-night convenience businesses. 61A-8.002 Training Curriculum. The purpose and effect of this proposed new rule is to implement the required safety training of convenience business employees. The rule provides a robbery deterrence and safety training framework for businesses covered by the Convenience Business Security Act (sections 812.1701-812.175, Fla. Stat.) by setting forth the necessary elements of the training curriculum that each convenience business must provide to its employees in accordance with section 812.174, Fla. Stat. 61A-8.003 Enforcement. The purpose and effect of this proposed new rule is to enforce the provisions of the Convenience Business Security Act (sections 812.1701-812.175, Fla. Stat.). The rule provides for the handling of violations of the Convenience Business Security via notices of violation and as appropriate, the imposition of civil fines.

SUMMARY: The proposed new rules are to comport with the Convenience Business Security Act (sections 812.1701-812.175, Fla. Stat.).

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this rule will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is

required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: the economic review conducted by the Agency.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 812.173(3), 812.174, 812.176, FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 812.173, 812.174, 812.175, FS.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Susan Hartmann Swartz, Susan.Swartz@myfloridalicense.com, (850)717-1252

THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

61A-8.001 Safety Standards.

(1) Each convenience business as defined in Section 812.171, F.S., shall be equipped with the following security devices and standards set forth in Section 812.173, F.S. and this rule, as follows:

(a) A functioning security camera system capable of recording and retrieving images in a format that upon request by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation ("Department") or any law enforcement agency, can be reproduced to assist in offender identification and apprehension. The security camera system shall be:

1. Positioned to provide photographic coverage of all registers in order to capture the image of offenders while minimizing tampering by customers or offenders,
2. Maintained as specified by the manufacturer, and
3. Continuously operated while employees are on the premises.

(b) A drop safe or cash management device must be installed and/or secured as specified by the manufacturer's instructions. The drop safe or cash management device must:

1. Be maintained as specified by the manufacturer, and
2. Offer protection against forced entry and provide a means for depositing currency, checks, and coins directly into the body of the drop safe or cash management device.

(c) Conspicuous height markers with digits at least one inch in height must be present at the inside entrance of the convenience business.

(d) A written cash management policy must be kept at the convenience business or be made immediately available, physically or electronically, to the Department upon request. Such policy must:

1. Establish a minimal cash register till or drawer limit consistent with the least amount of cash necessary to conduct business operations after 11:00 p.m., and

2. Require all \$50 and \$100 bills that are not included in the operational cash amount after 11:00 p.m. to be placed into a drop safe or cash management device.

(2) Pursuant to Section 812.173(3), F.S., a convenience business may apply for an exemption from the requirement that the convenience business be equipped with a silent alarm to law enforcement or a private security agency. The application for exemption must be submitted on form DBPR ABT-6081, Convenience Businesses, effective September 2026, incorporated herein by reference, and available at <http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19993> and on the Division's website at <https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/alcoholic-beverages-and-tobacco/forms-and-publications/#convenience>. An application for this exemption must be accompanied by payment of a \$25 administrative fee. The Department shall consider the following factors when deciding whether to approve or deny an application for exemption:

(a) The submittal of an alternative method by which to alert local law enforcement or a private security agency of an ongoing crime, which method must be approved by the Department's convenience business administrator,

(b) The history of the crimes set forth in Section 812.173(4), F.S., or lack thereof, committed at the convenience business, and

(c) Past and current compliance with the Convenience Business Security Act.

(3) Pursuant to Section 812.173(5), F.S., a convenience business that is required to implement any of the enhanced security measures set forth in Section 812.173(4)(a)-(e), F.S., may file a Notice of Exemption with the Department by submitting Form DBPR ABT-6081 as described in subsection (2) above, when the convenience business has maintained said measure(s) as required by the Department without any occurrence or incidence of the crimes identified in Section 812.173(4), F.S. for a period of no less than 24 months immediately preceding the filing of such Notice. Each convenience business's Notice of Exemption shall include, at a minimum:

(a) The name, address, and license number of the convenience business,

(b) The date of each judicial determination that a murder, robbery, sexual battery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, or kidnapping or false imprisonment occurred at the convenience business,

(c) A list of the security measure(s) set forth in Section 812.173(4)(a)-(e), F.S., that the convenience business has implemented,

(d) The date(s) on which the security measure(s) described within subsection (3)(c) of this rule were implemented, and

(e) A signed attestation by a duly authorized representative of the convenience business attesting to all information required by subsection (3) of this rule.

Rulemaking Authority 812.173(3), 812.176 FS. Law Implemented 812.173, 812.174 FS. History—New .

61A-8.002 Training Curriculum.

(1) Each convenience business shall provide robbery deterrence and safety training to new employees within 60 days of employment, in accordance with Section 812.174, F.S.

(2) Each convenience business shall provide updated training for existing employees within the time frames set forth below, commencing as of the effective date of this rule:

(a) A convenience business operating less than 25 locations in the state shall provide existing employees updated training within 90 days.

(b) A convenience business operating 25 or more locations but less than 50 locations in the state shall provide existing employees updated training within 180 days, and

(c) A convenience business operating 50 or more locations in the state shall provide existing employees updated training within one year.

(3) Upon request by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (“Department”), a convenience business must demonstrate that its employees timely received robbery deterrence and safety training via a Department-approved training curriculum.

(4) The training curriculum must include, at a minimum, the following topics:

(a) Personal safety,

(b) Robbery prevention strategies which incorporate general crime precautions and security measures and devices,

(c) Robbery reaction strategies, and

(d) Post-robbery procedures and strategies which incorporate those actions to take following a crime.

(5) To obtain approval for a convenience business’s training curriculum, the curriculum provider must submit to the Department’s Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Form DBPR ABT-6081, Convenience Businesses, incorporated within Rule 61A-8.001, F.A.C., along with:

(a) A curriculum in accordance with the applicable robbery deterrence and safety training requirements set forth in Section 812.74, F.S. and this rule, and

(b) Payment of a \$100 administrative fee for each proposed curriculum.

(6) A provider must submit its curriculum to the Department on a biennial basis for reapproval every two years from the date of the initial approval. Submissions for

reapprovals shall be provided to the Department in the same manner as initial approvals.

Rulemaking Authority 812.174, 812.176 FS. Law Implemented 812.174 FS. History—New .

61A-8.003 Enforcement.

(1) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (“Department”), Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco shall notify a convenience business of its violation of the Convenience Business Security Act by providing a Notice of Violation, which shall include the specific statutes and administrative rules that the convenience business violated, and the date(s) of such violation(s). The convenience business shall have 30 days from receipt of the Notice to demonstrate proof of compliance or submit a return to compliance plan to the Department for approval, detailing the necessary steps and reasonable timelines to return to compliance.

(2) If within 30 days of delivery of the Notice of Violation, the violation(s) set forth in the Notice have not been corrected or the convenience business has not submitted an approved plan for return to compliance, a civil fine may be imposed in the amount of \$750 to \$5000 for each of the following violations of the Convenience Business Security Act:

(a) Failure to Equip with Required Security Devices and Meet the Standards Set Forth in the Convenience Business Security Act, and/or Rules 61A-8.001 and/or 61A-8.002, F.A.C.:

1. 1st Offense: \$750

2. Repeat Offense: \$2000

(b) Window Tinting that Reduces Exterior or Interior View in a Normal Line of Sight:

1. 1st Offense: \$750

2. Repeat Offense: \$2000

(c) Failure to Equip with Silent Alarm Unless Exempt or an Alternative Method Approved by the Department’s convenience business administrator is used:

1. 1st Offense: \$3000

2. Repeat Offense: \$5000

(d) Failure to Notify of the Occurrence of a Qualifying Crime as set forth in Section 812.173(4), F.S.:

1. 1st Offense: \$3000

2. Repeat Offense: \$5000

(e) Failure to Implement Enhanced Security Measure(s) after Qualifying Crime as set forth in Section 812.173(4), F.S.:

1. 1st Offense: \$1000

2. Repeat Offense: \$5000

(f) Failure to Provide Robbery Deterrence and Safety Training to New Employees within 60 Days of Employment:

1. 1st Offense: \$750

2. Repeat Offense: \$2000

(g) Failure to Provide Updated Robbery Deterrence and Safety Training to Existing Employees within the Following Number of Days of the Effective Date of this Rule:

1. If operating less than 25 locations in the state, 90 days;
 2. If operating 25 or more locations but less than 50 locations in the state, within 180 days; and
 3. If operating 50 or more locations in the state, within one year.
- a. 1st Offense: \$750
 - b. Repeat Offense: \$2000

(3) The penalties for repetitive unlawful conduct shall be based on the same violation occurring within 36 months from the date of the Notice of Violation.

(4) The range of penalties set forth in subsection (2) for violations of the Convenience Business Security Act may be increased by an amount whereby the total amount of the fine per violation does not exceed \$5000, or decreased, based on consideration of the following aggravating and mitigating factors:

(a) Whether a crime was committed at the convenience business while the convenience business was in non-compliance with the Convenience Business Security Act.

(b) The type(s) of crime(s) that were committed at the convenience business while the convenience business was in non-compliance with the Convenience Business Security Act, including whether the crime(s) were murder, robbery, sexual battery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, or kidnapping or false imprisonment.

(c) The number of crimes committed at the convenience business during the preceding five years.

(d) The type(s) of crime(s) that were committed at the convenience business during the preceding five years, including whether the crime(s) were murder, robbery, sexual battery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, or kidnapping or false imprisonment.

(e) The number of times that the convenience business violated the Convenience Business Security Act.

(f) The deterrent effect of the penalty imposed.

(g) The effect of the penalty upon the livelihood of the owner of the convenience business, and

(h) Demonstration to the satisfaction of the Department's convenience business administrator of the efforts made to comply with the requirements of the Convenience Business Security Act before and after the violation.

Rulemaking Authority 812.176 FS. Law Implemented 812.175 FS. History--New .

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE:
Susan Hartmann Swartz

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Melanie S. Griffin

DATE PROPOSED RULE WAS APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: August 27, 2026

DATE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN FAR: July 15, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Board of Medicine

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

64B8-13.005 Continuing Education for Biennial Renewal
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To update continuing education requirements to add an additional provider for the controlled prescribing course.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule will add an additional provider for the controlled substance prescribing course.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this rule will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: During discussion of the economic impact of this rule at its Board meeting, the Board concluded that this rule change will not have any impact on licensees and their businesses or the businesses that employ them. The rule will not increase any fees, business costs, personnel costs, will not decrease profit opportunities, and will not require any specialized knowledge to comply. This change will not increase any direct or indirect regulatory costs. Hence, the Board determined that a Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs (SERC) was not necessary and that the rule will not require ratification by the Legislature. No person or interested party submitted additional information regarding the economic impact at that time.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 456.013, 456.031, 456.033, 458.309, 458.319 FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 456.013, 456.031, 456.033, 458.319 FS.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Morgan Rexford, MPH, Executive

Director, Board of Medicine/MQA, 4052 Bald Cypress Way,
Bin #C03, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3253, (850)245-4131 or
Morgan.Rexford@flhealth.gov

THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

64B8-13.005 Continuing Education for Biennial Renewal.

(1) Every physician licensed pursuant to Chapter 458, F.S., shall be required to complete 40 hours of continuing medical education courses approved by the Board in the 24 months preceding each biennial renewal period as established by the Department.

(a) through (c) No change.

(d) A licensee who is registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and is authorized to prescribe controlled substances is required to complete a 2-hour course on prescribing controlled substances at each biennial renewal of licensure as required by Section 456.0301, F.S. The Board approves the controlled substance prescribing courses offered by the Florida Medical Association, the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, the Florida College of Emergency Physicians, Baptist Health South Florida/Quality Network, InforMed, Florida Psychiatric Society, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, the University of Florida, NetCE, The Doctors Company, CE Group, AchieveCE, the University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Medicine, Integris Group, White Coat Institute d/b/a GetMyCME, Orlando Health, ~~and~~ Florida Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network, and Miami-Dade County Medical Association for the purpose of meeting this continuing education requirement.

(2) through (10) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 456.013, 456.031, 456.033, 458.309, 458.319 FS. Law Implemented 456.013, 456.031, 456.033, 458.319 FS. History—New 9-7-86, Amended 11-17-87, 11-15-88, 1-31-90, 9-15-92, Formerly 21M-28.002, Amended 12-5-93, Formerly 61F6-28.002, Amended 3-1-95, 1-3-96, 1-26-97, Formerly 59R-13.005, Amended 5-18-99, 2-7-01, 6-4-02, 10-8-03, 5-4-04, 5-20-04, 4-5-05, 4-25-06, 12-26-06, 1-16-08, 5-6-08, 11-25-08, 7-6-09, 2-23-10, 4-3-12, 3-12-14, 5-15-14, 10-26-14, 2-29-16, 2-26-18, 9-10-18, 4-29-19, 3-2-20, 3-2-22, 3-7-24, 9-25-24, 4-13-25, 6-4-25, 11-24-25, 3-19-26, 6-15-26, _____.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE:
Rules/Legislative Committee, Board of Medicine

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE
PROPOSED RULE: Board of Medicine

DATE PROPOSED RULE WAS APPROVED BY AGENCY
HEAD: June 5, 2026

DATE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT WAS
PUBLISHED IN FAR: September 16, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Family Safety and Preservation Program

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

65C-15.0031 Administration and Organization

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Amendments update the licensing requirements for child-placing agencies to streamline the licensing processes.

SUMMARY: Amendments add administration and organization requirements.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this rule will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule.

A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: The Department used a checklist to conduct an economic analysis and determine if there is an adverse impact or regulatory costs associated with this rule that exceeds the criteria in section 120.541(2)(a), F.S. Based upon this analysis, the Department has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 409.175 FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 409.175 FS.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Elizabeth Floyd. Elizabeth can be reached at Elizabeth.Floyd@myflfamilies.com or (850)488-2381.

THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

65C-15.0031 Administration and Organization.

(1) Statement of Purpose and Program Description. The child-placing agency shall have a written statement of purpose describing the core values, mission, services the agency provides, publication for availability of these services, and a description of the program.

(2) Business Registration. Child-placing agencies shall be registered to conduct business under Florida law. Child-placing Agencies outside the State of Florida shall be registered under the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations to:

(a) Place an adoptive child in the state of Florida.

(b) Provide services to the birth mother in Florida including relocating the birth mother to a different state.

(c) Execute any adoption-related business in Florida.

(3) Governing Body. Each child-placing agency must establish and maintain a governing body.

(a) The child-placing agency shall maintain a list of the members of its governing body. This list must be available to the Department and shall:

1. Include the name and term of membership of each member; and,

2. Identify each office and the term of that office.

(b) Responsibilities of the Governing Body.

1. Employ a qualified owner, chief executive officer, or executive director to provide oversight and make managerial decisions of the child-placing agency.

2. Evaluate in writing the owner, chief executive officer, and executive director's performance annually.

3. Approve the annual budget of anticipated income and expenditures necessary to provide the services described in its statement of purpose.

4. Maintain written minutes of all meetings, which must be provided to the Department upon request.

(4) Organizational Chart. The child-placing agency must maintain a current organizational chart showing the administrative structure including the lines of authority.

(5) The child-placing agency must complete and submit the, "Affidavit of Compliance," form CF-FSP 5218, (March 2026), which is incorporated by reference and available at <https://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19468>.

(6) The child-placing agency shall provide written notification to the Department's regional licensing team 30 days prior to changes in the agency's owner, chief executive officer, or executive director, statement of purpose, business name, address, or type of services being offered.

(7) The agency shall notify the Department in writing within one business day if:

(a) Any civil or criminal action is commenced in any jurisdiction against any owner, chief executive officer, executive director, director, officer, employee or agent of the agency, where the civil or criminal action relates to or affects the licensed child-placing activity of the agency, or

(b) Any action is commenced in any jurisdiction to revoke or suspend a license held by the agency.

(8) The child-placing agency shall maintain furnishings and equipment in good working condition for the operation of the office.

(9) Vehicles used by staff to transport children shall be maintained and operated in safe condition, and in conformity with motor vehicle laws.

(a) The agency shall assist clients in arranging transportation necessary for implementing the child's case plan and transportation for the child if the caregiver is unable to transport.

(b) The number of persons in a vehicle used to transport children shall not exceed the number of available seats; children shall be restrained by a safety belt or by a child restraint device when being transported in motor vehicles.

(10) Agency Closure. If a child-placing agency ceases operation, for any reason, it shall notify the Department in writing at least 30 calendar days prior to closing and shall provide the following to the Department:

(a) Legal transfer of surrender and releases of any children in its custody to another licensed child-placing agency or to the Department;

(b) Documentation of appropriate transfer of responsibility for children in temporary placement to another licensed child-placing agency or to the Department; and,

(c) All open and closed records.

(d) Documentation of appropriate transfer or termination of services for all other clients.

Rulemaking Authority 409.175 FS. Law Implemented 409.175 FS. History—New

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE:
Vanessa Snoddy

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Taylor N. Hatch

DATE PROPOSED RULE WAS APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: January 28, 2026

DATE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN FAR: September 16, 2026

Section III

Notice of Changes, Corrections and Withdrawals

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

64W-1.004 Application Requirements

NOTICE OF CORRECTION

Notice is hereby given that the following technical change has been made to the above rule:

64W-1.004 Application Requirements.

(1) The following Conrad 30 Waiver Program documents must be completed and uploaded as instructed to the

Department's website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/community-health-workers/conrad-30-program-j-1-visa/index.html> to be evaluated for sponsorship:

(a) A Florida DOH Sponsorship Application (DH8006-PHSPM-04/2026) eff. 04-2026, incorporated by reference and available at <https://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19553>;

(b) through (n) No change.

(2) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 381.4018(3) FS. Law Implemented 381.4018 FS. History—New 8-12-21, Amended 10-24-22, 8-23-26, Technical Change 9-24-26.

The following corrections were made to Florida DOH Sponsorship Application (DH8006-PHSPM-04/2026) eff. 04-2026: on page 1, under Section 1 – Applicant Information, corrects the subsection citations in the Specialty section from 64W-1.002 (6) & (7) to 64W-1.002 (8) & (9) to reflect changes in the rule text.

Section IV Emergency Rules

NOTE: The full text of Emergency Rules that are currently in effect can be viewed by going to <https://flrules.org/Notice/emergencyRules.asp>.

Section V Petitions and Dispositions Regarding Rule Variance or Waiver

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida Water Management District

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

40D-21.641 Phase III: Extreme Water Shortage

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR VARIANCE OR WAIVER
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 21, 2026, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, received a petition for a variance or waiver from Lakeview Villas P.O.A. Inc.

Nature of the rule for which variance or waiver is sought: Phase III: Extreme Water Shortage

The Petition has been assigned tracking No. 26-4453

A copy of the Petition may be obtained by contacting: Camille Mourant, 7601 US Highway 301, Tampa, Florida 33637, (813)438-4906, water.variances@watermatters.org. Any interested person or other agency may submit written comments within 14 days after the publication of this notice. (S102022)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RULE NOS.:RULE TITLES:

62-521.200 Definitions for Wellhead Protection

62-521.400 Ground Water Protection Measures in Wellhead Protection Areas

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR VARIANCE OR WAIVER
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 18, 2026, the Department of Environmental Protection, received a petition for a variance from Broward County.

The petition requested a permanent variance from subsection 62-521.200(7) and paragraph 62-521.400(1)(f), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which prohibits the construction of Class I, underground injection control (UIC) wells within a 500-foot radial setback distance around a potable water well, as regulated in Chapter 62-528, F.A.C. This request would allow the construction of one new Class I UIC well within 500 feet of a potable water well. The petition has been assigned OGC No. 26-2039.

A copy of the Petition may be obtained by contacting: Rufus Dickey, Department of Environmental Protection, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Mail Station 3500, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400, telephone: (850)245-7580, email: Rufus.L.Dickey@FloridaDEP.gov, during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. Written comments must be received by the Department of Environmental Protection no later than 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Section VI Notice of Meetings, Workshops and Public Hearings

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To consider those matters ready for decision.

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION: Chapters 120, 350, 364, 366, 367, and 368, F.S. Persons who may be affected by Commission action on certain items on the Conference agenda may be allowed to address the Commission, either informally or by oral argument, when those items are taken up for discussion, pursuant to Rules 25-22.0021 and 25-22.0022, F.A.C. The Commission Conference Notice, Agenda, related documents, and FPSC contact information are available at www.floridapsc.com.

ADA: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate at this proceeding should contact the Office of Commission Clerk no later than five days prior to the conference at 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 or (850)413-6770 (Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8770 Voice or 1(800)955-8771 TDD). Assistive Listening Devices are available upon request from the Office of Commission Clerk, Gerald L. Gunter Building, Room 152.

EMERGENCY CANCELLATION OF CONFERENCE: If a named storm or other disaster requires cancellation of the Conference, Commission staff will attempt to give timely notice. Notice of cancellation will be provided on the Commission's website (www.floridapsc.com) under the Hot Topics link on the home page. Cancellation can also be confirmed by calling the Office of Commission Clerk at (850)413-6770.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Office of Commission Clerk at (850)413-6770

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, immediately following the Commission Conference which commences at 9:30 a.m. in Joseph P. Cresse Hearing Room 148.

PLACE: Room 105, Gerald L. Gunter Building, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To discuss and make decisions on matters affecting Commission operations. Internal Affairs Agendas and FPSC contact information is available at www.floridapsc.com.

ADA: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate at this proceeding should contact the Office of Commission Clerk no later than five days prior to the conference at 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 or (850)413-6770 (Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8770 Voice or 1(800)955-8771 TDD). Assistive Listening Devices are available upon request from the Office of Commission Clerk, Gerald L. Gunter Building, Room 152.

EMERGENCY CANCELLATION OF MEETING: If a named storm or other disaster requires cancellation of the meeting, Commission staff will attempt to give timely notice. Notice of cancellation will be provided on the Commission's website (www.floridapsc.com) under the Hot Topics link on the home page. Cancellation can also be confirmed by calling the Office of Commission Clerk at (850)413-6770.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Office of Commission Clerk at (850)413-6770

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Children's Medical Services

The Department of Health/Division of Children's Medical Services/Early Steps Program announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: November 4, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., ET

PLACE:

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/1f4d6bec-fe4f-4ad3-b248-fee62daadf61@28cd8f80-3c44-4b27-81a0-cd2b03a31b8d>

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: The Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers is conducting their quarterly meeting to assist and advise the Early Steps Program.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: FICCIT@flhealth.gov

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 3 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: FICCIT@flhealth.gov. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

For more information, you may contact: FICCIT@flhealth.gov

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Family Safety and Preservation Program

The Department of Children and Families announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

PLACE:

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/83427797532?invitation=signature=dGHs-Wmo_uGZFSYLLW1EiUjo25avzuSBB-WTiW96bt4

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: The purpose of this meeting is for the Statewide Youth Advisory Board to conduct general business.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: A more detailed agenda with relevant presentation material is available upon request by contacting: Kyle Johnson, Department of Children and Families, (407)495-9866 or kyle.johnson1@myflfamilies.com.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 1 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Kyle Johnson, Department of Children and

Families, (407)495-9866 or kyle.johnson1@myflfamilies.com. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Agency for Persons with Disabilities

The University of South Florida on behalf of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Eastern

PLACE: Virtual – Webex Meeting – Webinar number: 2(530)552-8796 – Webinar password: 7McJpQePT42 (76257737 when dialing from a phone or video system) – Join by phone: +1(650)479-3208 United States Toll, Access Code: 2(530)552-8796, Password: 76257737 – Web address: <https://apdcares.webex.com/apdcares/j.php?MTID=m259b2316ce8079c5fcae56a35897e741>.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: Pursuant to Chapter 2026-129, Laws of Florida, the University of South Florida on behalf of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities is soliciting input on enhancing support coordinator quality, capacity and consistency from the whole community of waiver program stakeholders.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Anna Cleveland, Waiver Policy Coordinator, Division of Operations, Bureau of Waiver and Clinical Supports, office phone: (850)300-6834, address: the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, 4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 335W, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 48 hours before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Anna Cleveland, Waiver Policy Coordinator, Division of Operations, Bureau of Waiver and Clinical Supports, office phone: (850)300-6834, address: the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, 4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 335W, Tallahassee, FL 32399. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

Section VII

Notice of Petitions and Dispositions Regarding Declaratory Statements

NONE

Section VIII

Notice of Petitions and Dispositions Regarding the Validity of Rules

Notice of Petition for Administrative Determination has been filed with the Division of Administrative Hearings on the following rules:

NONE

Notice of Disposition of Petition for Administrative Determination has been filed with the Division of Administrative Hearings on the following rules:

NONE

Section IX

Notice of Petitions and Dispositions Regarding Non-rule Policy Challenges

NONE

Section X

Announcements and Objection Reports of the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

NONE

Section XI

Notices Regarding Bids, Proposals and Purchasing

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Children's Medical Services

The Department of Health/Division of Children's Medical Services/Early Steps Program announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: November 4, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., ET

PLACE:

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/1f4d6bec-fe4f-4ad3-b248-fee62daadf61@28cd8f80-3c44-4b27-81a0-cd2b03a31b8d>

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: The Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers is conducting their quarterly meeting to assist and advise the Early Steps Program.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: FICCIT@flhealth.gov

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 3 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: FICCIT@flhealth.gov. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

For more information, you may contact: FICCIT@flhealth.gov

Section XII Miscellaneous

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Index of Administrative Rules Filed with the Secretary of State Pursuant to subparagraphs 120.55(1)(b)7. – 8., F.S., the below list of rules were filed in the Office of the Secretary of State between 3:00 p.m., Thursday, September 17, 2026, and 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

Rule No.	File Date	Effective Date
5A-19.001	9/21/2026	10/11/2026
33-102.201	9/21/2026	10/11/2026
59A-8.0248	9/22/2026	10/12/2026
59G-4.264	9/21/2026	10/11/2026
61-35.011	9/23/2026	10/13/2026
62-816.015	9/23/2026	10/13/2026
62D-5.053	9/23/2026	10/13/2026
62D-5.054	9/23/2026	10/13/2026
62S-6.009	9/21/2026	10/11/2026
LIST OF RULES AWAITING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL SECTIONS 120.541(3), 373.139(7) AND/OR 373.1391(6), FLORIDA STATUTES		
Rule No.	File Date	Effective Date
14-10.0043	4/11/2025	**/**/****
65C-9.004	3/31/2022	**/**/****

BROWARD COUNTY PURCHASING

Notice of Unsolicited Proposal and Report of Public Interest Determination

Pursuant to Section 255.065, Florida Statutes

Proceeding With Unsolicited Proposal from Filthy Organics, LLC, Pursuant to Section 255.065(3)(d), Florida Statutes

On May 26, 2026, Broward County (“County”), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, received an unsolicited proposal (“Proposal”) from Filthy Organics, LLC (“Filthy

Organics”) for the design, construction, and operation of a composting operation for the processing and beneficial reuse of yard waste on approximately eight acres of County-owned land located within the Broward County Landfill at 7101 SW 205th Avenue, Unincorporated Broward County, Florida (“Property”). On August 17, 2026, the County received a written supplement from Filthy Organics providing additional information and clarification regarding certain terms of the Proposal.

The design, permitting, construction, operation, and maintenance of the composting operation for the processing and beneficial reuse of yard waste on the Property, as contemplated by the Proposal, are collectively referred to herein as the “Project.”

On August 20, 2026, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) directed the County Administrator to proceed with further evaluation of the Proposal pursuant to the public meeting process set forth in Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, rather than the public bidding process set forth in Section 255.065(3)(b), Florida Statutes.

On September 10, 2026, the Board held the first duly noticed public meeting required by Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes. County staff presented the Proposal, and affected public entities and members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment.

On September 22, 2026, the Board held the second duly noticed public meeting required by Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and considered the statutory factors required to determine whether the Proposal is in the public’s interest, including the public comments received at the September 10, 2026, meeting. Following consideration of those factors, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2026-396, determining that the unsolicited proposal is in the public’s interest and directing the County Administrator to proceed with further evaluation and negotiation of a comprehensive agreement with Filthy Organics, subject to the remaining requirements of Section 255.065, Florida Statutes.

In making its public interest determination, the Board considered the factors required by Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and made the following findings:

1. Benefits to the public. The Proposal would provide additional capacity within Broward County for processing and beneficial reuse of yard waste, support diversion of yard waste from landfill disposal, increase recycling, and produce finished compost and other beneficial-use material. The Project would be privately financed and would not require County capital funding. The Proposal also contemplates the possibility of providing certain finished compost and screened material to the County for County uses.

2. Financial structure and economic efficiencies. Filthy Organics proposes to bear the costs associated with the design,

permitting, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project without County capital funding. Filthy Organics has indicated a willingness to negotiate adjustments to the financial terms based on intake levels, escalation provisions, performance guarantees, and other protections. The privately financed compost field avoids the need for County capital funding and provides the opportunity for the County to receive financial consideration for use of the County-owned land. The final compensation structure and other financial protections will be established through negotiation of the comprehensive agreement.

3. Qualifications, experience, and ability to perform. Filthy Organics is a Broward County-based organic waste recycling company that has operated a community-scale aerated static pile composting facility in Broward County since 2021 and currently processes approximately 22,000 pounds of organic waste per week. Filthy Organics has identified existing relationships with local municipalities, institutions, and commercial customers. Although the Project represents a significant increase in scale from Filthy Organics' existing operations, the Board found that Filthy Organics has the relevant operating experience and existing market relationships supporting its ability to undertake the Project. Prior to approval of any comprehensive agreement, the County will require satisfactory evidence of financial capacity and financing, qualified personnel, suitable equipment, permitting capability, and other information necessary to demonstrate Filthy Organics' ability to develop and operate the Project at the proposed scale.

4. Compatibility with regional infrastructure plans. The Project would be located within the existing Broward County Landfill footprint and would utilize existing landfill access and related infrastructure. County staff considered the Project in relation to existing and planned landfill activities, including ingress and egress, future landfill development, cover operations, emergency and hurricane-debris operations, regulatory requirements, stormwater and environmental controls, fire protection, and long-term solid waste planning. These matters can be addressed through appropriate conditions, operating requirements, and protections in the comprehensive agreement. Accordingly, the Board found that the Project is compatible with applicable regional infrastructure plans.

5. Public comments. Affected public entities and members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment on the Proposal at the September 10, 2026, duly noticed public meeting. Oral public comments included support for expanding composting and yard-waste diversion, producing compost for beneficial use, and advancing a privately financed project without County capital funding. A speaker familiar with Filthy Organics' work in Southwest Ranches described a positive service relationship and praised its customer service and

professionalism. A representative of the League of Women Voters of Broward County supported the Proposal while recommending evaluation of the financial terms and contract duration, geographically distributed processing locations, and expedited competitive procurements to allow participation by multiple providers. Representatives of an existing composting operator supported the County's waste-diversion objectives and requested an opportunity for dialogue and participation, including an opportunity to compete. They stated that their company had substantial composting experience and could offer greater financial compensation to the County than the proposed terms in the Proposal. They also expressed concern that favorable access to County-owned land could provide Filthy Organics a competitive advantage that could adversely affect their existing business. Having considered these comments, the Board determined that the Proposal should proceed under Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, because it offers an initial, privately financed opportunity to expand yard-waste processing and beneficial reuse while the County continues planning for its broader solid waste needs.

Pursuant to Section 255.065(3)(d), Florida Statutes, Broward County publishes this report of the Board's public interest determination. Any proposed comprehensive agreement must be returned to the Board for approval.

Resolution No. 2026-396, which contains the Board's complete findings and consideration of the public comments, is incorporated into this report by reference and is available, together with the supporting materials, at: Broward County - File #: 26-1198

BROWARD COUNTY PURCHASING

Notice of Unsolicited Proposal and Report of Public Interest Determination

Pursuant to Section 255.065, Florida Statutes

Proceeding With Unsolicited Proposal from Dependable Equities, LLC, Pursuant to Section 255.065(3)(d), Florida Statutes

On May 22, 2026, Broward County ("County"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, received an unsolicited proposal ("Original Proposal") from Dependable Equities, LLC ("Dependable Equities") to demolish the existing County-owned structure and perform site clearing at 400 NE 4th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida ("400 Property"), at its sole cost and expense, in exchange for temporary use of the cleared 400 Property for construction logistics and support activities associated with its adjacent Ombelle development. On August 12, 2026, Dependable Equities amended the Original Proposal by addendum to request temporary use of additional County-owned property located at 408 NE 4th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida ("408 Property") (the 400 Property and the 408 Property are collectively referred to herein as the "Properties") (the

Original Proposal, as amended by the August 12, 2026, addendum, collectively, the “Proposal”).

As part of the County’s further evaluation of the Proposal, demolition of the existing County-owned structure and site clearing at the 408 Property are also contemplated as part of the proposed arrangement.

The demolition, site clearing, and temporary use at the Properties for construction logistics and support activities associated with the Ombelle development, as contemplated by the Proposal and the County’s further evaluation thereof, are collectively referred to herein as the “Project.”

On August 20, 2026, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) directed the County Administrator to proceed with further evaluation of the Proposal pursuant to the public meeting process set forth in Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, rather than the public bidding process set forth in Section 255.065(3)(b), Florida Statutes.

On September 10, 2026, the Board held the first duly noticed public meeting required by Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes. County staff presented the Proposal, and affected public entities and members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment. No public comments regarding the Proposal were received.

On September 22, 2026, the Board held the second duly noticed public meeting required by Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and considered the statutory factors required to determine whether the Proposal is in the public’s interest, including the public-comment record of the September 10, 2026, meeting and any public comments received at the September 22, 2026, meeting. Following consideration of those factors, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2026-395, determining that the Project, as reflected in the Proposal and the County’s further evaluation thereof, was in the public’s interest in accordance with Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and directing the County Administrator to proceed with further evaluation of the Proposal and negotiation of a comprehensive agreement with Dependable Equities, subject to the remaining requirements of Section 255.065, Florida Statutes.

In making its public interest determination, the Board considered the factors required by Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and made the following findings:

1. Benefits to the public. The existing vacant County-owned structure at the 400 Property was constructed in approximately 1956, was significantly impacted by the April 2023 flooding, is not currently used for a County purpose, and is at the end of its useful life. The County incurred approximately \$36,000 in maintenance expenses for the 400 Property in Fiscal Year 2025. Additionally, the existing County-owned structure at the 408 Property is also vacant and currently not needed for County use. Under the Proposal, Dependable Equities would demolish the existing structures and perform the required site clearing at the

Properties at its sole cost and expense. The Proposal would eliminate unused County-owned structures, including the deteriorated structure at the 400 Property, reduce ongoing County maintenance and security obligations, avoid County expenditures for demolition, site clearing, and ultimately return the Properties to the County in a cleared condition for future County-determined uses following expiration or earlier termination of the temporary use by Dependable Equities.

2. Financial structure and economic efficiencies. Dependable Equities proposes to bear, at its sole cost and expense, the costs associated with demolition, debris removal, and site clearing at the Properties. In exchange, Dependable Equities would receive temporary and revocable use of the Properties for construction logistics and support activities associated with the adjacent Ombelle development. The contemplated comprehensive agreement would have a 36-month initial term encompassing demolition, site clearing, and temporary use and would permit the County to terminate or recapture the temporary use rights as provided in the comprehensive agreement. The proposed structure would avoid County expenditures for the demolition, debris removal, and site clearing work and reduce the County’s ongoing maintenance, security, and other carrying obligations associated with the Properties. Based upon these considerations and the proposed terms of the arrangement, the Board found that the financial structure provides economic efficiencies and benefits to the County. The final consideration and other business terms remain subject to negotiation and subsequent Board approval of a comprehensive agreement.

3. Qualifications, experience, and ability to perform. Dependable Equities has represented that it owns and manages a real estate portfolio valued at approximately \$4 billion. County staff has also identified the adjacent Ombelle Project as a 775-unit development being undertaken by Dependable Equities. The Proposal contemplates that Dependable Equities will be responsible for coordinating and undertaking the demolition, debris removal, site clearing, site security, stabilization, and temporary construction-logistics activities comprising the Project. Based upon Dependable Equities’ real estate development experience, its ongoing development of the adjacent Ombelle Project, and the information reviewed by County staff, the Board found that Dependable Equities possesses, directly and through appropriately qualified contractors, the qualifications, experience, and ability necessary to perform the Project.

4. Compatibility with regional infrastructure plans. The Project is temporary in nature, preserves County ownership of the Properties, and does not grant Dependable Equities permanent rights in either property. County staff considered the temporary nature and proposed use of the Project, including its location adjacent to the Ombelle development, the County’s continued ownership of the Properties, the absence of any permanent

property interest in favor of Dependable Equities, and the requirement that the Properties be used only for temporary construction logistics and support activities. The contemplated arrangement includes fencing and site-security measures, controls the handling, storage, removal, and disposal of hazardous or regulated materials in accordance with applicable law, and requires site clearing, stabilization, and return of the affected Properties to the County in a clean and cleared condition. Based upon that analysis, the Board found that the Project is compatible with applicable regional infrastructure plans.

5. Public comments. Affected public entities and members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment on the Proposal at the September 10, 2026, and September 22, 2026, duly noticed public meetings. No public comments regarding the Proposal were received at either meeting. No public comments regarding the Proposal were received. Based upon the foregoing findings, the Board determined that the Proposal should proceed under Section 255.065(3)(c), Florida Statutes, because it would avoid County expenditures for demolition and site clearing of unused County-owned structures, reduce ongoing County maintenance and security obligations, and provide Dependable Equities only temporary and revocable use of the Properties. The contemplated arrangement would preserve County ownership of the Properties and the County's ability to determine their future use following expiration or earlier termination of the temporary use rights.

Pursuant to Section 255.065(3)(d), Florida Statutes, Broward County publishes this report of the Board's public interest determination. Any comprehensive agreement resulting from the negotiations must be returned to the Board for separate approval.

Resolution No. 2026-395, which contains the Board's complete findings, is incorporated into this report by reference and is available, together with the supporting materials, at: Broward County - File #: 26-1083

Section XIII

Index to Rules Filed During Preceding Week

NOTE: The above section will be published on Tuesday beginning October 2, 2012, unless Monday is a holiday, then it will be published on Wednesday of that week.
