

IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF
ATTORNEYS FOR MENTAL
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE CASES IN POLK COUNTY

AMENDED
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-31

Historically, appointments of counsel in chapter 125 and chapter 229 cases have been made on a rotating basis among a list of attorneys who have indicated their interest in being involved in such cases. Typically, this has resulted in a given attorney being appointed for only a few days per year. This has also resulted in some inefficiencies in terms of judicial economy and inconsistent billings. As a result, attorneys may still apply by November 1 to be on the court appointment list for these cases for the following year; however, a limited number of attorneys will routinely be appointed on a more consistent schedule that would involve one attorney having hearings on a given day of the week for the year. As a result, a far fewer number of attorneys (more than likely no more than five) will be appointed for a given calendar year.

In order to be considered for any appointments, an attorney must be able to participate in court proceedings by Zoom or a similar remote platform; going forward, attorneys who do not have the necessary technology for remote participation will not be considered for appointments. In addition, any attorney who is appointed will be expected to commit to a full year of appointments. Should coverage issues arise, the court will reserve the right to appoint any attorney who has indicated an interest, regardless if they are already regularly being appointed.

This order will go into effect for appointments on January 1, 2024 and will remain in effect until modified or vacated.

Dated this 16th day of October, 2023.



MICHAEL D. HUPPERT, CHIEF JUDGE
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

Copies to:

Chief Justice Susan Christensen, Iowa Supreme Court
Liaison Justice Edward Mansfield, Iowa Supreme Court
State Court Administrator, Bob Gast
Fifth Judicial District Judges, Staff and Stakeholders