

Common Terms

Some terms that appear in this document are commonly used but may be subject to different interpretations. To facilitate clarity these terms are defined for purposes of this document as follows:

State Courts refers to the courts created by Article V of the Constitution of the State of Florida, specifically the supreme court, district courts of appeal, circuit courts, and county courts.

State Courts System refers solely to the officers, employees, and divisions of the supreme court, district courts of appeal, circuit courts, and county courts. The State Courts System does not include entities such as circuit clerks of court, state attorneys, public defenders, or The Florida Bar.

Judicial Branch refers to the state courts and the framework of court rules, regulatory oversight, and leadership of the legal profession provided within the domain of the Florida Supreme Court and the Chief Justice. The judicial branch includes the circuit clerks of court when performing court-related functions.

Justice System or Justice System Partners refers to the network of entities that routinely work in conjunction with the state courts. Justice system partners include The Florida Bar and providers of legal services, law enforcement agencies, governmental and private service agencies such as the Department of Children and Families, the Florida's Office of Guardian ad Litem, treatment providers, and community-based agencies.

Court Employees refers to non-judge personnel of the State Courts System as well as personnel in county-funded positions managed by court administration.

Judges refers to judges of the county, circuit, and district courts of appeal as well as the justices of the supreme court. Magistrates, hearing officers, and special masters are not judges.

Court Personnel refers to court employees as well as other personnel who are not court employees but who work in or provide services to the courts such as bailiffs, clerk staff, contracted court reporters, and contracted foreign language interpreters.

Court Administrators refers to the non-judge executive management of the state courts, including marshals of the appellate courts, trial court administrators, and the Office of the State Courts Administrator.