



Greetings! Our **office consolidation project** is moving along. The latest phase is finished and the Official Records Department has a new location. It is now located in the northwest corner of the courthouse, on the first floor by the main entrance. We are proceeding with additional moves involving Clerk's Accounting, Collections Enforcement, Human Resources, and traffic ticket payment counters. These moves are expected to be finished this fall. Thank you for your patience during the project. We look forward to the improved accessibility and service this project will provide.

My latest **Strategic Update is now available** for your review. This report provides direct insight into the progression of my 2013—2016 strategic plan and the advancement of clerk services. Please take a moment to review the report and to provide any feedback you have on our services. The report is available at www.polkcountyclerk.net, under the "information & other services" section. I hope you have a wonderful summer.

- Stacy

NEW SUPREME COURT ORDER FOR ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT DOCUMENTS

The Florida Supreme Court recently issued **Administrative Order 15-18, Standards for Access to Electronic Court Documents and Access Security Matrix**, adopting recommended changes by the Access Governance Board, under authority of the Florida Courts Technology Commission (FCTC).

The order states, "the Court hereby adopts the amended Standards for Access to Electronic Court Records and the amended Access Security Matrix to supersede those adopted in AOSC14-19."

AOSC 14-19 was issued last year and ended the moratorium on online public access to images of court documents. The amended documents can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

We are continuing to develop our new system to comply with this order. We expect to start testing the system in July and have it fully functional in late summer/early fall. I will provide updates as the project progresses.

Florida Supreme Court order information is available at www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/adminorders/index.shtml

IMPROPER FILING OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Please remember to follow Minimization of Filing Sensitive Information, Rule 2.425, Fla. R. Jud. Admin. and Public Access to and Protection of Judicial Branch Records, Rule 2.420, Fla. R. Jud. Admin. It is extremely important that sensitive and confidential information is protected as we move to provide online access to our records. [A recent article in the Florida Bar](#) gives some insight on the two rules. **View the article at bit.ly/1RnLLim.**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Please review these recently approved bills. Keep this information in mind as you submit filings to the courts.

Rental Agreements Bill

House Bill 779 relating to rental agreements; creating s. 83.561, F.S.; providing that a purchaser taking title to a tenant-occupied residential property following a foreclosure sale takes title to the property, subject to the rights of the tenant; specifying the rights of the tenant; authorizing a tenant to remain in possession of the property for 30 days following receipt of written notice; prescribing the form for a 30-day notice of termination; establishing requirements for delivery of the notice; authorizing a purchaser to apply for a writ of possession if a tenant refuses to vacate the property; providing exceptions; providing for construction; providing an effective date.

Guardianship Proceedings Bill

House Bill 5; Among other provisions, this bill: allows the court to appoint the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel as a court monitor if the ward is indigent; allows the court to waive appointment of a guardian ad litem in a guardianship case regarding the settlement of a claim by a minor; provides court guidelines for appointment of guardians and emergency temporary guardians; requires 24 hour notice to an incapacitated person and his or her counsel of the appointment of an emergency temporary guardian unless such notice would cause the alleged incapacitated person harm; prohibits a court from authorizing payment of emergency temporary guardian's or attorney's final fees until the final report is filed. Provides that certain for profit corporations may act as guardian of a

ward and requiring a blanket fiduciary bond of \$250,000 be posted with the clerk; provides for suspension of a power of attorney before incapacity determination. Requires letters of guardianship to specify, where applicable, the authority of a health care surrogate; places restrictions on the appointment of a professional guardian as the permanent guardian of a ward; prohibits abuse, exploitation, or neglect of a ward by a guardian; requires a guardian act only within the scope of authority granted; act in good faith; act in the ward's best interests; and keep clear, distinct and accurate records. Requires annual guardianship plans be filed prior to the time they take effect; and provides the legal standard for restoration of capacity and requires the court to give priority to such hearings.