

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 04-27**

**(Requests for Mental Health Hearings)**

**WHEREAS**, the procedures governing the request for and scheduling of mental health probable cause hearings pursuant to D.C. Code § 21-525 should be codified in a court rule; and

**WHEREAS**, until amended Superior Court Mental Health Rules are adopted, the interim procedures set forth below are necessary to govern requests for and scheduling of probable cause hearings pursuant to D.C. Code § 21-525 in the Family Court;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is hereby,

**ORDERED**, that a respondent or respondent's counsel may request a probable cause hearing pursuant to D.C. Code § 21-525 within seven (7) days from the time the order required by D.C. Code § 21-524 was entered by communicating the request either in person or by telephone to the Mental Health Clerk's Office during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.) or by filing a written request with the court after normal business hours; and it is

**ORDERED**, that the court shall schedule a hearing pursuant to D.C. Code § 21-525 within 24 hours of receipt of a request for a hearing from the respondent or his counsel. A request shall be deemed to have been received when the request is communicated in person or by telephone to the Mental Health Clerk's Office during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.) or when a written request is received by and time stamped in the Mental Health Clerk's Office during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.). Regarding written requests filed with the court after normal business hours, respondent's counsel shall also notify the Mental Health Clerk's Office by telephone no later than 9:30 a.m. on the day following the filing of the written request.

**SO ORDERED.**

**BY THE COURT**

**December 14, 2004**

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**Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III**

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**Chair, Commission on Mental Health**

**Tonya Robinson, Assistant Attorney General**

**Harry Fulton, Esq., PDS Mental Health Division**