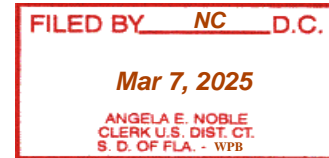


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2025-17

IN RE: RIGHT TO COUNSEL
AT INITIAL APPEARANCE



To ensure meaningful representation at every stage of criminal proceedings, under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), 18 U.S.C. section 3006A, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and Judicial Policy, it is

ORDERED that the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida formally adopts a policy to ensure that every criminal defendant has active representation by counsel before their initial appearance. After an appropriate inquiry into the availability of funds, if the Court finds that a person is financially unable to obtain adequate representation, defense counsel will be appointed and available to meet and confer with the defendant before the initial appearance.

This Order shall be effective immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 7th day of March 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecilia M. Altonaga".

CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

c: All Southern District of Florida District Judges and Magistrate Judges
Hector Dopico, Federal Public Defender
Angela E. Noble, Court Administrator • Clerk of Court
Riselda R. Ruiz, Chief Probation Officer
Library