

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR BAY COUNTY**

In re: Kevin Wood

Order number: 98-03

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**Administrative Order**

This matter is before the Court upon its own initiative in response to a series of events that have undermined the orderly and efficient administration of the Office of the Clerk of the Court and, if unaddressed, threaten the proper operation of the Courts.

Mr. Kevin Wood, hereinafter Wood, fancies himself to be the champion for many causes, both real and imagined. In furtherance of these causes Wood has engaged in a course or courses of conduct that exceed the bounds of constitutionally protected activity and decency. Indeed, some of his recent acts are unlawful and without justification.

**Intimidation and Harassment**

Over the past several weeks, Wood has undertaken a campaign of intimidation and harassment directed toward the Clerk's employees. He has sought to interrogate Deputy Clerks on various issues. When a clerk declines to address the questions he poses, Wood threatens to have the clerk subpoenaed. He has most recently undertaken to tape record or videotape these encounters over the stated objections of the clerks. This activity interferes with the normal and legitimate functioning of the Clerk's office. It also impinges on the rights of the clerks under Florida law.

**Invasion of Privacy**

In at least one recent instance, Wood has obtained the address and telephone number of an employee of the Court system. Knowing that the employee was at work in the Courthouse, Wood telephoned the employee's home and spoke to the housekeeper. Wood falsely represented that he is an agent of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and sought to obtain information about the employee's family. Thereafter, he contacted the employee's spouse at that spouse's place of employment and again sought information by claiming to be with FDLE. Those acts violate §843.08, *Florida Statutes*, and unlawfully infringe upon the protected privacy rights of the employee and the employee's family.

**Attempted Violation of Grand Jury Confidentiality**

A Grand Jury of the State of Florida is afforded the protection of confidentiality which is mandated by the Florida Constitution and by statute; this confidentiality extends to the names and addresses of the grand jurors.

Wood has sought to learn the names of the current grand jurors. He attempted to obtain a list of the jurors through the clerk in charge of jury administration. When told that such

information is secret by law, Wood telephoned a newly hired clerk in another department and tricked the clerk into revealing the name of the Grand Jury foreperson.

### **Refusal to Abide by Courthouse Regulations and Directives by Security Officers**

The Bay County Courthouse is open to the public between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. when it is closed to finalize the business of the day. Wood repeatedly has refused to leave at the appointed time, and on more than one occasion he has re-entered the Courthouse after being escorted out.

Certain areas of the Courthouse, by necessity and in keeping with common sense, are not accessible to the public. Such areas are delineated by signage. Wood has accessed secured areas without authorization. In one recent instance, he refused to leave when directed by a security officer thus necessitating his arrest.

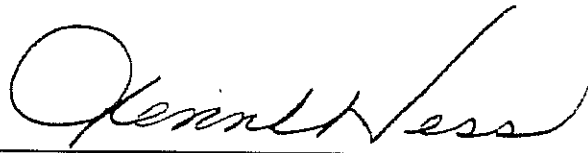
### **Access to the Courts for All Citizens**

The Court is cognizant of the fundamental constitutional guarantee that the courts must be open to all for the redress of injury. Nevertheless, the courts and the collective citizens of the State have an interest in the orderly and efficient administrative of the office of the Clerk of the Court. Such interests override the unlawful acts of Mr. Wood. Moreover, the Court notes that the employees of the Clerk's Office have the right to be free of harassment, intimidation and interference in the workplace and in their personal lives. It is therefore

#### **Ordered and adjudged that:**

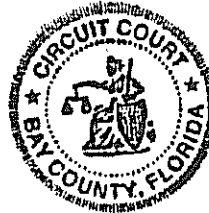
1. Mr. Kevin Wood is prohibited from entering the Bay County Courthouse, including the Courthouse Annex and the Offices of the Clerk of the Court, located at 300 East 4th Street, Panama City, Florida unless accompanied by an officer of the Bay County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Wood may contact the Sheriff's Office at (850) 747-4700 or the Court Security Office at (850) 747-5000, extension 5225, at least three hours before any Courthouse visit to arrange an escort. The Sheriff shall assign, at a minimum, one Deputy Sheriff to physically accompany Mr. Wood during the entire visit. Abuse, threats, violations of law or disruptive behavior may result in arrest and shall be grounds for immediate ejection of Mr. Wood. Visits by Mr. Wood shall be for the purpose of attending court cases in which he is a party or filing papers or delivering records requests in conformity with the *Florida Statutes*.
2. Mr. Wood is prohibited from bringing recorders, either aural or video, into the Bay County Courthouse.
3. Mr. Wood is prohibited from orally demanding information from Deputy Clerks **except** department managers who remain free to respond or not as they choose.
4. The Sheriff of Bay County, Florida is directed to serve personally a copy of this Administration Order on Mr. Wood and to attest to the time and date of such service.

Done and ordered in chambers at Panama City, Bay County, Florida on this 24th day of April, 1998 at 9:00 a.m.



**Honorable Glenn L. Hess**  
Administrative Circuit Judge for Bay County

cc: Honorable Judy M. Pittman, Chief Judge  
Honorable N. Russell Bower, Circuit Judge  
Honorable Don T. Sirmons, Circuit Judge  
Honorable Clinton E. Foster, Circuit Judge  
Honorable Dedee S. Costello, Circuit Judge  
Honorable Russell A. Cole, Jr., Circuit Judge  
Honorable Michael C. Overstreet, Circuit Judge  
Honorable William L. Wright, Circuit Judge  
Honorable William A. Cooper, Jr., Administrative County Judge  
Honorable Thomas F. Welch, County Judge  
Honorable Elijah Smiley, County Judge  
Honorable Harold Bazzel, Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Nevin J. Zimmerman, Esq., Attorney for Bay County  
Sheriff Guy Tunnell  
Lt. Lowell Russ, Bay County Sheriff's Office



A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
HAROLD BAZZEL CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
By Radna Swartz  
Deputy Clerk