

# PROCLAMATION

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, National Treatment Court Month is observed in May, and in the State of Florida, Treatment Courts are known as Problem-Solving Courts and play a crucial role in improving substance use disorders, mental disorders, and treatment outcomes, while also fostering community partnerships to enhance public safety, quality of life and public health; and

**WHEREAS**, Problem-Solving Courts address the underlying causes of an individual's involvement in the justice system by engaging a multidisciplinary team approach with intensive judicial supervision and evidence-based treatment to break the cycle of substance dependency, reduce recidivism, as well as restore and save lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the dedicated efforts of judges, court coordinators, attorneys, treatment professionals, law enforcement and corrections personnel, researchers, educators, and community leaders help assure that these courts focus on helping participants improve their education, gain employment, establish housing stability, foster family strength and enhance financial outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, Problem-Solving Courts not only instill confidence and satisfaction in the justice system but also yields significant cost savings for taxpayers, and are recognized as the most effective justice system intervention for individuals with substance use and mental disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, the first drug court, established in Miami in 1989, inspired almost 200 problem-solving courts in Florida and over 4,000 worldwide. Marion County launched its own Drug Court in 1994, now operating three tracks. Since then, our Problem-Solving Courts have served more than 5,000 participants with a robust lineup of specialty courts -including Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans' Treatment Court, Family Treatment Drug Court, DUI Court, and Early Childhood Court, which collectively supported about 500 individuals in 2024 alone. These programs are vital to reducing recidivism, preserving families, expanding access to health services, saving lives, and improving recovery outcomes in our community;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **May 2025** be known as

**“PROBLEM SOLVING COURT MONTH”**

**DULY PROCLAIMED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHY BRYANT, CHAIRMAN

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CARL ZALAK, III, VICE CHAIR

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MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

**ATTEST:**

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CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

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GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

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MATT MCCLAIN, COMMISSIONER