

Supreme Court of Florida

No. SC01-337

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
Appellant,

vs.

**CAPITAL COLLATERAL REGIONAL COUNSEL,
MIDDLE REGION et al.,**
Appellees.

[September 20, 2001]

LEWIS, J.

We have on appeal the ruling of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Orange County, (Stroker, J.), ordering Orange County to pay the fees of mental health experts appointed by the court in connection with the evaluation of Robert Ira Peede during a postconviction competency determination pursuant to Carter v. State, 706 So. 2d 873 (Fla. 1997). We have jurisdiction. See art. V, § 3(b)(1), Fla. Const.

Based upon the reasoning contained in this Court's recent opinion in

Miami-Dade County v. Jones, 26 Fla. L. Weekly S533 (Fla. Aug. 23, 2001), we affirm the trial court's ruling placing financial responsibility upon the county.

It is so ordered.

WELLS, C.J., and SHAW, HARDING, ANSTEAD, PARIENTE, and QUINCE, JJ., concur.

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO FILE REHEARING MOTION, AND IF FILED, DETERMINED.

An Appeal from the Circuit Court in and for Orange County,

R. James Stroker, Judge - Case No. CR83-1682

George L. Dorsett, Assistant County Attorney for Orange County, Orlando, Florida,

for Appellant

Mark S. Gruber, Assistant CCRC-Middle, Office of the Capital Collateral Regional Counsel-Middle, Tampa, Florida,

for Appellee