

COUNTY is entitled to the EXEMPTION (RO - paragraph 73, page 24).

CONCLUSION

The case law of Florida holds that parties to formal administrative proceedings must alert reviewing agencies to any perceived defects in DOAH hearing procedures or in the findings of fact of ALJs by filing exceptions to DOAH recommended orders. *See, e.g., Comm'n on Ethics v. Barker*, 677 So. 2d 254, 256 (Fla. 1996); *Henderson v. Dep't of Health, Bd. of Nursing*, 954 So. 2d 77, 81 (Fla. 5th DCA 2007); *Fla. Dep't of Corrs. v. Bradley*, 510 So. 2d 1122, 1124 (Fla. 1st DCA 1987). Having filed no exceptions to any findings of fact the parties “[have] thereby expressed [[their] agreement with, or at least waived any objection to, those findings of fact.” *Env'tl. Coal. of Fla., Inc. v. Broward Cty.*, 586 So. 2d 1212, 1213 (Fla. 1st DCA 1991); *see also Colonnade Med. Ctr., Inc. v. State of Fla., Agency for Health Care Admin.*, 847 So. 2d 540, 542 (Fla. 4th DCA 2003). However, even when exceptions are not filed, an agency head reviewing a recommended order is free to modify or reject any erroneous conclusions of law and interpretations of administrative rules. Section 120.57(1)(I), F.S.

CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE RECOMMENDED ORDER

The DISTRICT agrees with the ALJ's legal conclusions and recommendations made in the RO. Therefore, the DISTRICT is not correcting or modifying the RO.

ATTORNEYS FEES AND COSTS

Under Florida Law:

The final order in a proceeding pursuant to s. 120.57(1) shall award reasonable costs and a reasonable attorney's fee to the prevailing party only where the nonprevailing adverse party has been determined by the administrative law judge to have participated in the proceeding for an improper purpose.