

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF FLORIDA.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 93-8

RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF A
FAMILY LAW DIVISION

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida approved the recommendation of the Commission on Family Courts, and has ordered each Circuit to establish a means to assign all Family Court matters that affect one family, including dissolution of marriage, custody, juvenile dependency and delinquency to a Family Division, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Family Law Division is to assist in moving families through a traumatic period of their lives in the least traumatic way, therefore;

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit establishes the Family Law Division effective January 1, 1994. The Family Law Division shall consist of dissolutions of marriage, guardianships, baker, myers and malloy acts, HRS/URESA, child support, injunctions for protection, juvenile dependency and juvenile delinquency.

Each judge assigned to cases from the above listed classes shall be considered a judge of the Family division while hearing those cases.

The Family Law Division shall be under the direction of an Administrative Judge appointed on a yearly basis by the Chief Judge. Judges shall be assigned to the division by the Chief Judge for terms to be determined at the discretion of the Chief Judge. The Administrative Judge shall have the authority to make decisions concerning the operations of the division and shall include standardization of forms and procedures within the Circuit. Assignment and duties of non-judicial Hearing Officers, Special Masters, General Masters, or Child Support Hearing Officers shall be at the discretion of the Administrative Judge.

The Trial Court Administrator's Office shall assist the Administrative Judge in obtaining and supervising—once obtained, resource personnel such as Intake Counselors, Case Coordinators and Law Clerks.

The Administrative Judge shall formulate rules concerning assignment of new and existing cases and handling of past judgement matters.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF A FAMILY LAW DIVISION

The Administrative Judge with the assistance of the Court Administrator's Office and the Circuit's Clerks of the Court shall formulate procedures for the tracking and consolidation of cases in order that the same judge is handling both juvenile and dissolution cases involving the same family. These procedures may vary from County to County depending on computer capabilities, personnel availability and cost factors.

The Administrative Judge shall be responsible for the development and implementation of uniform motions, orders, and procedures for calendaring cases.

The Administrative Judge shall make exception to any standard procedure, when necessary, for the efficiency of the system.

The Chief Judge shall insure that judges are assigned for emergencies occurring during nights, weekends or holidays.

General requests and procedures for Family Mediation and/or Juvenile Arbitration, if not covered by existing Administrative Orders, shall be formulated and implemented by the Administrative Judge.

The Administrative Judge shall coordinate with the Clerks of the Circuit court to establish a system for Family Court filing to be approved by the Chief Judge.

Changes in procedures shall be adopted by Administrative Order of the Chief Judge or Administrative Judge.

Effective January 1, 1994 any Administrative Order in conflict with orders and procedure established for the operation of The Family Law Division are revoked.

DONE AND ORDERED in Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida
this 29th day of September, 1993.



L.B. VOCELLE, CHIEF JUDGE
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT