

IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY )  
LAW DIVISION )

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO: 2.12

Pursuant to Rule 2.050, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, the following Order shall formally provide for the establishment of a Family Law Division within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit and shall apply to certain enumerated family law matters in Lee and Collier Counties. Due to population, caseload and judicial assignments, it is unnecessary that the Order be applied to Charlotte, Hendry and Glades Counties.

This Order is specifically designed to comply with the requirements of Justice Overton's opinion in In re: Report of the Commission on Family Courts, 16 F.L.W. S609 (Fla. Sept. 12, 1991). Additionally, the Order should serve to codify what has been the practice in this circuit since 1985.

Jurisdiction of the Family Law Division shall include dissolution, custody, visitation relief, property, URESA, name change, paternity, adoption, and domestic violence cases. In Lee County, juvenile dependency matters are to be included, but juvenile delinquency proceedings shall not be included. In Collier County, all juvenile matters shall be included within the Family Law Division.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Rule is to coordinate family law matters that affect one family by assigning all such cases to one judge.

JUDGE ASSIGNMENT AND ROTATION:

Judges shall be assigned to the Family Law Division by the Chief Judge, who shall give special consideration to the aptitude, demonstrated interest, and experience of each judge, for a term of not less than two years with the opportunity to request rotation after three years. Rotation of judges shall be staggered and shall be accomplished by Administrative Order.

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE:

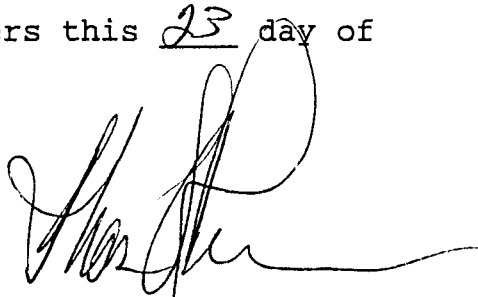
In order to ensure that all family law matters which affect one family are assigned to the same judge (with the exception of juvenile delinquency proceedings in Lee County), an Administrative Family Law Judge shall be appointed to serve in the Family Law Divisions of Lee and Collier Counties. The Administrative Family Law Judge shall be responsible for the implementation of this Order within the Family Law Division. The Administrative Family Law Judge shall be designated by Administrative Order for not less than a six month term.

The Administrative Family Law Judge shall also be responsible for ensuring that the division receives proper resources including court connected mediation, domestic violence assistance programs, guardians ad litem, home assessment services, sufficient staff to operate enforcement of support services and case coordination/receptionist staff. Any deficiencies in these resources shall be reported to the Chief Judge by the Administrative Family Law Judge immediately upon discovery or recognition of same.

In order to effectuate the purpose of this order, it shall be incumbent upon every person appearing before any judge within the Family Law Division to advise the judge of all other family law matters which may, in any way, affect the family or families involved in the matter before the judge. If there are other cases pending before any other judge within the division, the presiding judge shall notify the Administrative Judge of the multiple filings and, by appropriate order, the Administrative Judge shall consolidate all such family law matters to be heard before the same circuit judge within the division.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers this 23 day of

Jan  
1992.

  
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Thomas S. Reese  
Chief Judge

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF LEE

FILED FOR RECORD

This 300 Day of FEB 1992 Record in MINUTE

Book 36 Page \_\_\_\_\_ and Record Verified.

CHARLIE GREEN  
Clerk Circuit Court

By B. Sanck  
Deputy Clerk

History. - New.

I CERTIFY THIS DOCUMENT TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ON FILE IN MY OFFICE. CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK CIRCUIT COURT LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

DATED: 2-3-92

BY: B. Sanck  
Deputy Clerk