

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

ORDER ESTABLISHING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT  
FOR LEE COUNTY

There is created within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in and for Lee County, Florida a Domestic Violence Court. Beginning April 11, 1994, Circuit Judge Hugh E. Starnes will hear all criminal misdemeanor domestic violence cases, as well as all civil injunctions for protection against domestic violence and injunctions for protection against repeat violence. County Judge G. Keith Cary will also handle the Domestic Violence Court docket during his ancillary weeks, approximately once every six weeks. It is anticipated that the Domestic Violence Court will handle a large number of cases. Therefore, a domestic violence unit has also been created to assist and provide support to the Domestic Violence Court.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT:

The domestic violence unit currently consists of a domestic violence coordinator and a clerk, both of whom work under the direction of the Deputy Court Administrator for the Family Law Division. The unit will assist petitioners in the filing of petitions for injunction for protection against domestic violence and repeat violence, civil motions for contempt, other related motions and applications for orders. The unit will also handle inquiries from the petitioner and the respondent.

The domestic violence coordinator will appear at all court proceedings and will assist the court by monitoring all civil

court orders. The coordinator will also act as liaison with the service providers in the community and keep the court apprised of the availability of and changes in such services.

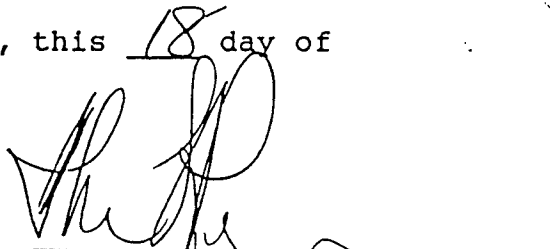
In addition, in criminal cases the coordinator will act as liaison with the State Attorney, Public Defender, Clerk's Office, Probation Department, Court Investigations, and private attorneys. The coordinator will track both civil and criminal cases and inform the court of any other pending matters. This practice is designed to decrease the likelihood of duplicate sentences and allow the court to dispose of all matters in a timely fashion.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ARRAIGNMENTS

All misdemeanor domestic violence arrests occurring after 12:00 A.M., March 21, 1994, shall be given a Domestic Violence Court arraignment date. This shall include all arrests for failure to appear in an existing domestic violence case. In addition, all misdemeanor domestic violence arrest capiases, non-arrest capiases, and summonses served after 12:00 A.M., Monday, March 21, 1994, shall also be given a Domestic Violence Court arraignment date.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, this 18 day of

March, 1994.

  
Thomas S. Reese  
Chief Judge

History.-New.

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF LEE

FILED FOR RECORD

This 21<sup>ST</sup> Day of March 19 94 Record in Cr. Ct. Min.

Book 38 Page \_\_\_\_\_ and Record Verified.

CHARLIE GREEN  
Clerk Circuit C t

By Mark Wood  
Deputy Clerk

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: March 21, 1994

BY: Mark Wood  
Deputy Clerk

