

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

ORDER ESTABLISHING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT
FOR COLLIER COUNTY

There is created within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in and for Collier County Florida a Domestic Violence Court. Beginning December 1, 1995, Collier County Judge Brenda C. Wilson 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. The Chief Judge may reassign or substitute other judges to preside over these matters as he deems appropriate or necessary under the circumstances without further order of the court. 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, two clerks and a domestic violence investigator, all of whom work under the direction of the Deputy Court Administrator for the Family Law Division. The character and composition of the domestic violence unit may change without further order of the court as the Chief Judge or his designee may

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prescribe.

The unit will assist petitioners in the filing of petitions for injunctions for protection against domestic violence and repeat violence, civil motions for contempt, and other related motions and applications for orders. The unit will also handle inquiries from the petitioner and the respondent.


The domestic violence coordinator may appear at court proceedings as the court deems appropriate and will assist the court by monitoring all civil and criminal 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 Domestic Violence Investigator will act as liaison with the State Attorney, Public Defender, Clerk's Office, Probation Department, Court Investigations, and private attorneys. The coordinator or Domestic Violence Investigator or both will track both civil and criminal cases and inform the court of any other matters which may have a bearing upon the court's decision. 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., December 1, 1995, 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 summons served after 12:00 a.m., December 1, 1995, shall also be given a Domestic Violence Court arraignment date.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, this 31st day of October, 1996, nunc pro tunc to December 1, 1995.



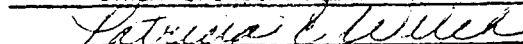
Hugh E. Starnes
Chief Judge

History.-New.

I, Dwight E. Brock, Clerk of Courts in and for Collier County, do hereby certify that the above instrument is a true and correct copy of the original which is on file in my office in the courthouse in Naples, Collier County, Florida.

Witness under my hand and seal this 5th day of November, 1996

DWIGHT E. BROCK, CLERK


Patricia C. Wilk
Deputy Clerk