

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. II-05-F-8

IN RE:

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT
REOPENED AND REFILED CASES
MODIFICATIONS

In accordance with the authority vested in the Chief Judge by Rule 2.050 of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration,

ORDERED that:

All open civil and family cases have prior hereto been reassigned pursuant to original Administrative Order II-93-F-8.

All disposed cases shall remain in their current Unified Family Court Divisions except Division (39). In the event a disposed Unified Family Court domestic relations case reopens (upon filing of a motion) which has not yet been reassigned to a Unified Family Court Division, the movant shall request that the clerk of the court randomly reassign the case to a Unified Family Court Domestic Relations division (35-42, and not 39). **Commencing March 1, 2005**, when a Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division (39) cases is reopened, it shall be randomly reassigned to another Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division (35-42, and not 39), if not previously reassigned prior to March 1, 2005.

The Clerk of the Court is directed to conduct a search of the automated system for all previous existing Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division cases upon the filing of a Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division case. The Clerk at the time of filing of a Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division proceeding, shall reference in the file all previous related case numbers in both the physical case file and the automated civil system. The Clerk shall also search Unified Family Court Dependency Division filings as required by Administrative Order II-04-F-3 or any amendment thereto.

Commencing March 1, 2005, at the time of filing, if any previously existing Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division cases are identified by the Clerk (including DOR other than DOR/DCF filings), all new Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division cases except new pro se Dissolution of Marriage cases shall be filed with the same Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division as the most recent previously filed case. All new pro se Dissolution of Marriage cases will be filed in Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division

(44). If there are crossover dependency or delinquency cases, the matter will be handled according to Administrative Order II-05-F-4.

A DOR/DCF case is a DOR case which is a crossover case between a DOR domestic relations case and a dependency case. **Commencing March 1, 2005**, the DOR/DCF case will be filed pursuant to II-05-F-4 or as amended.

Domestic violence cases will be reassigned to the judge who has heard related matters pursuant to II-04-F-17 or as amended.

All modification proceedings filed with the Clerk of the Court shall retain the same case number assigned to the initial case and remain with the Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division assigned thereto, except Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division (39) cases, which shall be randomly reassigned to another Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division (35-42, and not 39). If no Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division was previously assigned, it shall be randomly assigned to a Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division (35-42, and not 39).

Each modification proceeding shall be filed with a blue cover sheet and the modification petition will be designated by the number of the modification in consecutive numbers, (For example: second petition for modification of child support, etc.)

The Clerk of the Court shall initially determine whether the motion or pleading filed seeks a modification of a prior order or requires a reopen fee subject to a motion for refund filed with the court.

All modification proceedings shall be filed with the Clerk of the Court prior to submission of an order to the judge for entry on the modification.

Upon the reopening of a Unified Family Court Domestic Relations Division file, it shall not be returned to any storage facility outside the courthouse, unless there is no activity in the file for a period of 90 days.

Pursuant to the requirements of the State Summary Reporting System, the Clerk of Court is directed to count the new modification case number and all subsequent modifications filed as a reopened case, and all other pleadings which reopen the case shall be reported in the other category.

Upon the request of the Unified Family Court Division Judge, the Clerk of the Court shall forward to the requesting Judge a case filing card for each closed action which is considered reopened, as a result of the filing of a modification proceeding. The cards shall be forwarded on Monday of each week for the preceding week.

Any day-to-day clarification or disputes concerning proper filing or assignment may be made by the Administrative Judge of the Unified Family Court.

This order rescinds and replaces Administrative Order II-95-F-5B and Administrative Order II-04-F-8 and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Administrative Order II-88-A-1 as it relates to family cases.

Unless otherwise indicated above, this order takes effect upon the date it is signed.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on this the 23rd day of February, 2005.

/s/DALE ROSS
DALE ROSS, Chief Judge