

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

Administrative Order No. 2017-46-UFC

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING
DISTRIBUTION OF UNIFIED FAMILY COURT CASES
TO JUDGES AND GENERAL MAGISTRATES**

(a) Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215 (b) (3) states the chief judge “shall, considering available resources, ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within [this] circuit.”

(b) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is ordered:

(1) The Clerk of the Courts shall assign delinquency cases to Divisions JA, JB, JC, and JD.

(2) The Clerk of the Courts shall assign dependency cases to Divisions JM/30, JN/31, JO/32, JQ/34, and JT/46. Until JT/46 has the same number of open and pending cases of the dependency division with the lowest case count, the new division shall be assigned 2 cases for each case assigned to JM/30, JN/31, JO/32, and JQ/34. The Chief Judge by separate memorandum will advise the Clerk of the Courts the dependency cases to be reassigned to JT/46 and General Magistrate Division. The Chief Judge by separate memorandum will advise the Clerk of the Courts when the dependency divisions shall receive the same distribution of cases.

(3) The Clerk of the Courts shall assign family cases to Divisions 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, and 44. Divisions 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, and 44 shall receive an equal distribution of cases.

(4) The Clerk of the Courts shall assign 60% of the civil domestic violence cases to Division 59/57 and 40% to Division 63.

(5) The Clerk of the Courts shall assign the dependency cases, with all related family cases, to the general magistrates for the dependency divisions as follows:

Division GMW	Division JM/30 and fifty percent (50%) of the cases JT/46
Division GMX	Division JN/31 and fifty percent (50%) of the cases for JT/46
Division GMY	Division JO/32
Division GMZ	Division JQ/34

(6) The Clerk of the Courts shall assign the family cases to the general magistrates in the following percentages:

Division 90	25%
Division 91	25%
Division 93	25%
Division 98	25%

(7) Upon the filing of a pleading or paper in a closed Division 42 or 43 case, the Clerk of the Courts shall randomly reassign the case to division 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, or 44.

(8) Upon the filing of a dependency pleading or paper in a closed Division JP case, the Clerk of the Courts shall randomly reassign the case to Division JM, JN, JO, JQ, or JT.

(9) The Clerk of the Courts shall randomly assign the Parental Notice of Abortion Act cases to dependency divisions JM, JN, JO, JQ, JS, and JT.

(10) Upon the filing of a pleading or paper in a closed family General Magistrate Division the Clerk of the Courts shall randomly reassign the case to division 90, 91, 93, or 98.

(11) The designation for the General Magistrate or Hearing Officer at the time the case was assigned to Division 43 shall remain when the closed case is reassigned to another family division unless the General Magistrate Division or Hearing Officer Division is closed then the case shall be reassigned to a new General Magistrate or Hearing Officer Division.

(12) If an order of disqualification is entered in a delinquency case or cases, the Clerk of the Courts shall determine the number of cases reassigned and shall assign the same number of new cases to the transferring division to maintain equity between the juvenile divisions.

(13) The Clerk of the Court shall randomly assign all cases in as equal a distribution as possible to the divisions as set forth in this Administrative Order except as otherwise set forth herein.

(14) This Administrative Order vacates and supersedes Administrative Order 2017-21-UFC.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on this 14th day of August, 2017.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge