

JUDGE Yael Gamm
Circuit Court Judge
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of
Florida



Broward County Courthouse
201 S.E. 6th Street, Room 9131
Courtroom 9170
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
(954) 831-7758

Division JQ/34/JK Guidelines

Communication

The code of Judicial Conduct precludes Judicial Assistants and other courtroom staff from speaking to parties about substantive matters in any case. Furthermore, the Judicial Assistant and other court personnel are not legally qualified to provide legal advice to anyone.

In addition, the Code of Judicial Conduct also prohibits judges from considering ex-parte (or one-sided) communications. As a result, any issue to be considered by the Court should be in the form of a Motion filed with the Clerk of Court and copies provided to all parties of record. However, the mere filing of a motion with the Clerk's Office does not bring the matter before the Judge. A hard copy must be provided to the Judge with a cover letter explaining how much time is necessary for the matter to be heard. The letter should also include information regarding whether evidence (i.e. -testimony) will need to be considered at the time of the hearing.

Self-represented or pro-se litigants, who have questions after reviewing these procedures, may seek assistance in order to receive additional procedural information by going to room 5180 of the Courthouse or by contacting the division case manager at 954-831-5564.

Referral to the General Magistrate

This Court refers matters to the General Magistrate for consideration and/or hearing. General Magistrate Randi Boven and General Magistrate Vickie Plant are assigned to this division, so it is important to note whether your Notice of Hearing requires you to appear before Judge Gamm or the General Magistrate when appearing for a case.

Motions

All motions must be filed with the Clerk of Court via the Efiling Portal before any materials, including courtesy copies and/or agreed orders, are provided to the Court. The Court will not file something with the Clerk of Court on a party's behalf. (For more information regarding the Florida E-Filing Portal, please refer to www.myflcourtaccess.com.)

Consultation with other parties and requirement for good faith conferral

At the end of any motion not agreed upon by the parties, counsel for the moving party shall certify either: (A) that counsel for the movant has conferred with all parties or non-parties who may be affected by the relief sought in the motion in a good faith effort to resolve the issues raised in the motion and has been unable to do so; or (B) that counsel for the movant has made reasonable efforts to confer with all the parties or non-parties who may be affected by the relief sought in the motion, which efforts shall be identified with specificity in the statement (such as method of contact as well as date/time of contact), but has been unable to reach the other parties or non-parties whose input may be necessary. If certain of the issues have been resolved by agreement, the certification shall specify the issues so resolved and the issues remaining resolved.

Agreed orders

Before submitting an order to the court as “agreed,” the office preparing the order must provide an advance copy to the opposing side and confirm there is no objection to the form of the order prior to submitting it to the Judge. When submitting such an order, notification shall be given to the Judge that the opposing side either agrees to the order and/or has no objection/position to the relief being ordered. Such agreement can be indicated in either the title of the order and/or by correspondence accompanying the submission.

Hearings

The Dependency Division is not a part of the On-line Scheduling System. All hearings are set by the Court, the Judicial Assistant, or the Clerk of Court. If you need to set a hearing, a motion must be filed with the clerk and a courtesy copy delivered to the Judicial Assistant with a cover letter indicating how much time is necessary for the hearing and whether evidence will need to be considered. Upon receipt and review of the motion, a hearing will be set with an appropriate amount of time allotted on the Court’s docket. Emailed motions and hearing requests will be accepted providing the documents are under 15/20 pages long. (Email: Lcameron@17th.flcourts.org).

Emergency Hearings

If a matter needs to be heard on an EMERGENCY basis, as defined under the 17th Judicial Circuit’s definition of an “Emergency,” a copy of the Emergency Motion along with a cover letter advising how much time is needed must be provided to the Court as soon as possible. The cover letter must note that the matter is requested to be heard on an emergency basis so that it can be expedited as so. Please see Administrative Order Establishing Procedures for Unified Family Division Emergency Matters, Order No. 2015-10-UFC dated March 16, 2015.

Telephonic Appearances

If a conflict exists the Judge may allow telephonic appearances for an attorney or other party if such good cause exists. The decision as to whether to allow such telephonic appearance is solely at the Judge's discretion and should be approved by the Judge prior to the hearing date.

*For additional information and for a list of the Court Holidays please go to www.17th.flcourts.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.