

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

Administrative Order 2019-19-UFC

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REFERRING CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO HEARING OFFICERS**

(a) Pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the chief judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice.

(b) 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.”

(c) Florida Family Law Rule 12.491 permits the referral of actions for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of child support to hearing officers appointed by the chief judge.

(d) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

(1) The following actions are automatically referred to a child support hearing officer without further order of the court:

(a) Any action where the sole issue is the establishment, enforcement, or modification of non-Title IV-D child support and in which the Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) is a party;

(b) Any action where non-Title IV-D child support is an issue and in which the DOR has pending a motion to intervene; and

(c) Any action that is filed in response to an administrative enforcement action by the DOR, including but not limited to license suspensions and bank levy issues, regardless of whether the DOR has sought or been permitted to intervene as a party.

(2) Unlike referral of matters to a general magistrate, which requires the consent of the parties, referral of matters to the child support hearing officers under Rule 12.491 does not require the consent of any party, and therefore, no objections to such referral will be entertained by the court. Either party may set the action for hearing before the assigned child support hearing officer.

(3) Upon referral of any action, the child support hearing officer shall proceed with the hearing and the preparation and filing of a recommended orders as provided in Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.491.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 4th day of March, 2019.

/s/Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge