

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

Order Number 2016-16-Civ

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING
TRANSFER OF WATER DAMAGE CASES**

(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) The Circuit and County courts are experiencing the filing of cases by a homeowner or third party vendor or assignee for the same incident seeking insurance coverage. In order to efficiently utilize judicial resources these cases, if possible, should be heard by one judge.

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

1. If there is a pending county court case regarding water damage with a companion circuit court case based upon the same incident a party may seek the transfer of the case to circuit court.
2. The party seeking transfer shall file a motion in the county court case for hearing before the assigned judge. The county court judge may grant or deny the transfer.
3. If the county case is transferred to circuit court, the circuit judge shall determine how the cases will proceed taking into consideration Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.270.
4. Once the case is transferred from county to circuit court it shall remain a companion case of the circuit case until final resolution and may not be transferred back to county court.
5. A copy of the order granting the transfer shall be provided to the circuit judge by the moving party within 5 days of the order being signed.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on

March 11, 2016 nunc pro tunc to March 4, 2016.

/s/ Peter M. Weinstein
Peter M. Weinstein, Chief Judge