

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

Administrative Order 2016-6-UFC

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER AS TO
VOLUNTARY DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

- (a) Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b) states the chief judge shall “develop an administrative plan for the efficient and proper administration of all courts within that circuit.”
- (b) Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, authorizes the establishment of voluntary substance abuse programs for dependency cases for the rehabilitation of parents to promote reunification and stable home environments for children.
- (c) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is ordered:
 - (1) A voluntary dependency drug court is established as authorized by Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
 - (2) The dependency divisions shall identify cases which may be appropriate for dependency drug court using the following criteria:
 - a. substance use/abuse involvement or co-occurring disorder (substance abuse and mental health) is noted on the petition for shelter or dependency or identified by the court and reunification is the goal; and
 - b. the parent resides in Broward County; and
 - c. no more than forty five (45) days have elapsed since removal of the child (ren) or an arraignment on a straight petition. This time requirement can only be waived by the judge assigned to dependency drug court or upon approval of a general magistrate’s recommendation on a case by case basis.
 - (3) A parent may not elect to participate in dependency drug court if:
 - a. judicially determined a sexual predator;
 - b. judicially determined a pedophile;
 - c. judicially determined to have caused severe physical or sexual abuse on a minor;
 - d. diagnosed with a terminal illness with less than six (6) months to live; or
 - e. diagnosed with a mental health illness which will substantially impair participation in a substance abuse treatment program.
 - (4) Upon identifying a case meeting the eligibility criteria, the court shall:
 - a. refer the parent(s) to a dependency drug court orientation;
 - b. refer the parent(s) to a comprehensive assessment by the Family Intervention Specialist (herein FIS) on a specific date and at a specific time

if the parent indicates a willingness to participate in the dependency drug court program;

- c. hold a drug court acceptance hearing after orientation and assessment to:
 - i. hear from a representative of the dependency drug court program as to the parent(s) probability of complying with the dependency drug court program requirements;
 - ii. allow the parent and his or her attorney to sign the "Agreement to Participate in Dependency Drug Court" if the parent is allowed to participate in dependency drug court; the parent(s) consent to the petition and a finding of dependency as to the child(ren).
 - iii. set a dependency drug court status hearing.
- (5) Upon transfer to the dependency drug court the parent(s) will attend status hearings and all other statutorily mandated hearings until completion of the requirements of the dependency drug court tasks or termination from dependency drug court. Cases may be referred to a general magistrate as authorized by law and rules of procedure.
- (6) This Administrative Order vacates and supersedes Administrative Order 2011-42-UFC.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on
January 13, 2016.

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