

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

Administrative Order No. 2024-9-UFC

**IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF CASES INVOLVING THE HAGUE
CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD
ABDUCTION:**

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

(b) Florida Rule of General Practice and 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) The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (“Hague Convention”) is a mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained from the child’s country of habitual residence. The Hague Convention is not an extradition remedy, but is a civil remedy for abduction.

(d) In 1988, the United States codified the terms of The Hague Convention in 42 U.S.C. § 11601, which is known as the International Child Abduction Remedies Act. In 2002, the Florida Legislature recognized The Hague Convention and enacted sections 61.524 and 61.525, Florida Statutes.

(e) The Florida Supreme Court published Administrative Order AOSC19-19, which requires the chief judge of each judicial circuit to designate a judge with primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases filed within the circuit.

(f) Uniform practices for handling Hague Convention cases filed within the Circuit are necessary in order to fulfill the requirements set forth by the Supreme Court of Florida.

(g) 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 General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby ORDERED: :

1. Circuit Court Judge Jose Izquierdo is hereby designated as the judge with primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases within the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit.
2. A judge receiving a case or motion involving The Hague Convention, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, or any case relating to sections 61.524 and 61.525 of the Florida Statutes shall notify Judge Jose Izquierdo immediately to review and handle the case.
3. In the event that Judge Jose Izquierdo is not available to handle a specific Hague Convention matter within the time constraints presented, the Family Law Division Administrative Judge shall designate a Circuit Court Judge to rule on the matter until such time Judge Izquierdo is able to address any other matter relating to sections 61.524 and 61.525, Florida Statutes.
4. If the case identified with Hague Convention issues has related cases, the Judge who is handling the case shall be notified of the related cases to avoid conflicting orders.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on this 8th day of March, , 2024.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge