

STACY M. ROSS
COUNTY COURT JUDGE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF
FLORIDA



BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
201 S.E. 6TH STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
(954) 831- 7396

DIVISION PROCEDURES

COMMUNICATION

The Code of Judicial Conducts precludes Judicial Assistants and other court room staff from speaking to the parties about substantive matters in any case. Furthermore, the Judicial Assistant and other courtroom staff are not legally qualified to provide legal advice to anyone. Legal questions should be referred to the lawyers assigned to the case.

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 Judge should be in the form of a motion filed with the Clerk of Court and copies provided to all parties. However, the mere filing of a motion with the Clerk does not automatically bring the matter before the Judge. A copy must be provided to the Judge. All such correspondence should be sent directly to the Judge's Judicial Assistant, Chela Iverson, at civerson@17th.flcourts.org. The Judge's Judicial Assistant will then communicate with the parties to schedule the motion for a time and date in open court, if needed. Please be prepared to tell the Judicial Assistant how much time is required for the hearing. If you need to contact the Judicial Assistant via telephone, Ms. Iverson can be reached at (954)831-7396. All phone calls will be returned no later than the next business day.

ZOOM HEARINGS

The Judge presides in-person in courtroom #5810 in the West Wing of the Broward County Courthouse on a daily basis. This Division also employs the use of the Zoom platform. The **Zoom MEETING ID is for the Judge's regular docket is: 186 476 648**. In order to appear via zoom, permission must be granted by the Judge in advance of the hearing. The Judge will allow zoom appearances on a limited basis for case management conferences (including diversion statuses, calendar calls, fast track hearings) if a party lives out of county and/or will experience an undue hardship by attending in person. However, all parties shall appear in person for evidentiary hearings, including trials and motions to suppress.

Please be aware that if the case is set for a **DETENTION HEARING** before Judge Ross, it will be heard at 11 am on the designated Detention Hearing link using **MEETING ID: 997 2512 2895**. All parties are permitted to attend either in person or on zoom without prior approval.

Problem-Solving and Therapeutic Court Programs:

GIRLS COURT

Girls Court is open to all girls (and those who identify as such) in Broward County's juvenile justice system. It is held bi-monthly. Female-identifying juveniles already assigned to Judge Stacy Ross are automatically set on the Girls Court docket. Girls in the other juvenile courtrooms may participate upon stipulation of the parties. The purpose of this specialized court is to offer gender-responsive and strength-based services, while ensuring due process. The goal is to decrease the girls' deeper involvement with the juvenile and adult court systems while addressing the trauma and victimization that typically lead them into the system. Other relevant factors addressed are: education, chronic runaway status, domestic minor sex trafficking, pregnancy, drug use and poverty. This initiative includes collaboration among all interested parties, including the Court, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, voluntary service providers, Broward schools and the community.

RISE COURT

RISE (Restoring Independence, Strength, Empowerment) is a specialized, therapeutic court program dedicated to the unique needs of child-survivors of human trafficking. This court program provides wrap-around services to those children and young adults in the dependency court system. For further information regarding procedures and eligibility for RISE Court, please refer to Administrative Order 2019-47-UFC.

PETITIONS FOR EXPUNCTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 943.0583, (HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM EXPUNCTION)

Administrative Order 2021-63-Crim establishes that all petitions filed pursuant to 943.0583, Florida Statutes, shall be heard by Judge Stacy Ross. Upon filing a petition with the Clerk of the Court, the moving party shall simultaneously provide a courtesy copy and all supporting documents to Judge Stacy Ross. The Court further requests that a copy of said petition be provided to the Assistant State Attorney handling such matters. If a hearing is needed, the judicial assistant shall coordinate with the parties upon receipt of the petition. Any party who files a petition under this statute has an obligation to ensure such filing complies with all rules governing the confidentiality of court records.