

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

Administrative Order No. 2022-53-UFC (Amendment 2)

**ESTABLISHING DISTRIBUTION OF UNIFIED FAMILY COURT CASES
TO JUDGES AND GENERAL MAGISTRATES**

- (a) Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the chief judge “ensures the efficient and proper administration of all courts within [this] circuit, considering available resources.”
- (b) In accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge by Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED, effective immediately unless otherwise indicated:**
- (1) The Clerk of the Court shall assign delinquency cases to Division JA, JB, JC, and JD.
- (2) The Clerk of the Court shall assign dependency cases to Divisions JM/30, JO/32, JQ/34, and JT/46. Divisions JM/30, JO/32, JQ/34, and JT/46 shall receive an equal distribution of all cases filed under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, except as otherwise directed by memorandum from the Administrative Judge of the Unified Family Court or designee. This includes shelter petitions and/or petitions for dependency that require the assignment of a new case number. This equal case distribution shall not include shelter petitions filed in an existing case or an additional minor child being added to an existing dependency case. The following cases shall be counted and distributed separately from all other case types filed under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, including but not limited to pick up orders, injunctions, and petitions to intervene.
- (3) The Clerk of the Court shall assign family cases to Divisions 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41 and 44 equally, except as otherwise directed by memorandum from the Administrative Judge of the Unified Family Division or designee.
- (4) The Clerk of the Court shall assign the civil domestic violence cases to Division 59/57, 63, and 45, equally, unless otherwise directed by memorandum from the Administrative Judge of the Unified Family Division or designee.

(5) The Clerk of the Court shall assign the dependency cases, including any related family cases, to the general magistrates for the dependency divisions as follows:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Division GMW | Division JM/30 |
| Division GMX | Division JT/46 |
| Division GMY | Division JO/32 |
| Division GMZ | Division JQ/34 |

(6) The Clerk of the Court shall assign the family cases to the general magistrates in the following percentages:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Division 90 | 25% |
| Division 91 | 25% |
| Division 93 | 25% |
| Division 98 | 25% |

(7) The Clerk of the Court shall continue to assign child support Title IV-D cases among the hearing officers up until December 1, 2024 as follows:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Division 94 | Divisions 35, 40, 41, 44, JQ/34, JS/39, and JT/46 |
| Division 96 | Divisions 33, 36, 37, 38, JM/30, 42 , and JO/32 |

Then, **effective December 1, 2024**, the Clerk of the Court shall assign child support Title IV-D cases among the hearing officers as follows:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Division 94 | Divisions 41, 42, 44, JM/30, JO/32, JQ/34, JS/39, and JT/46 |
| Division 95 | Divisions 35, 36, and 40 |
| Division 96 | Divisions 33, 37, 38 |

(8) Upon the filing of a pleading or paper in a closed Family Division, the Clerk of the Court shall randomly reassign the case to Division 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41 or 44.

(9) Upon the filing of a dependency, delinquency, or adoption pleading or paper in a closed Division JP or Division JN/JI closed case(s), the Clerk of the Court shall randomly reassign the case(s) to Division JM/JH, JO/JJ, JQ/JK, or JT/JL.

(10) Upon the filing of a domestic violence pleading or paper related to a closed Division JN or JP dependency case, the Clerk of the Court shall randomly reassign the case(s) to Division 58/30, 58/32, 58/34, or 58/46.

(11) The Clerk of the Court shall randomly assign the Parental Notice of Abortion Act cases to dependency divisions JM, JO, JQ, JS, and JT.

(12) Upon the filing of a pleading or paper in a closed family General Magistrate Division, the Clerk of the Court shall randomly reassign the case to Division 90, 91, 93, or 98.

(13) The designation for the General Magistrate or Hearing Officer to a closed division shall remain the same when the closed case is reassigned to another family division unless the General Magistrate Division or Hearing Officer Division is closed then the case shall be reassigned to the new General Magistrate or Hearing Officer Division.

(14) If an order of disqualification is entered in a delinquency case or cases, the Clerk of the Court shall determine the number of cases reassigned and shall assign the same number of new cases to the transferring division to maintain equity between the Juvenile Division.

(15) The Clerk of the Court shall randomly assign all cases in as equal a distribution as possible to the divisions as set forth in this Administrative Order, except as otherwise set forth herein.

(16) This Administrative Order vacates and supersedes Administrative Order 2022-53-UFC (Amendment 1).

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida on this 20th day of November, 2024.

/s/ Jack Tuter
Jack Tuter, Chief Judge