

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5.803-4/09

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH COUNTY
UNIFIED FAMILY COURT JUVENILE DIVISION "JS"
AND THE REASSIGNMENT OF EXISTING CASES
IN THE "JM" DIVISION**

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit has identified a need to better serve children and families by expanding Unified Family Court to the South County Annex thereby ensuring children and families are linked to local services in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** as follows:

A. CREATION OF DIVISION "JS" AND ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

1. Effective April 20, 2009, Court Administration is hereby directed to establish a South County Juvenile Division, Division "JS".
2. The Clerk of Court shall assign delinquency and dependency cases according to the zip codes outlined in Administrative Order 5.102-4/09 (as amended).
3. Division "JS" will also include the transfer of all existing delinquency and dependency cases currently assigned to Divisions "JK", "JL", "JM" and "JO" according to the requirements set forth in Administrative Order 5.102-4/09 (as amended).
4. No later than June 1, 2009, Division "JS" will be completely established.
5. Division "JS" cases will initially be located at the Main Judicial Complex until it is relocated to the South County Courthouse on July 6, 2009.

B. REASSIGNMENT OF NEWLY FILED AND EXISTING DIVISION "JM" CASES

1. Effective April 20, 2009, newly filed delinquency and dependency cases at the Main Judicial Complex shall not be assigned to division "JM". Alphabetical assignments comprising Division JM shall be distributed as follows:

Alphabetical Assignment from Division JM To Division

| | |
|---------------|----|
| S, X, and Z | JL |
| T, U, W and Y | JK |
| R and V | JO |

- No later than June 1, 2009, those cases in Division "JM," that were not transferred to Division "JS" in accordance with Administrative Order 5.102 – 4/09 shall be transferred/reassigned to the three remaining Main County Courthouse divisions according to the following alphabetical assignment:

Alphabetical Assignment from Division JM To Division

| | |
|---------------|----|
| S, X, and Z | JL |
| T, U, W and Y | JK |
| R and V | JO |

- In transferring existing cases with the applicable South County zip code to Division "JS" and reassigning existing Division "JM" cases to the other three divisions, it is contemplated that subsequent Administrative Orders may be entered to facilitate the bulk transfer/reassignment of such cases.
- To the extent that this Administrative Order differs from Administrative Order 5.102, this Administrative Order controls. Upon the completion of the establishment of the South County UFC Division and the entire transfer of all applicable cases, Administrative Order 5.102 will be reviewed and amended, if necessary.

C. ORDER TRANSFERRING/RESASSIGNING CASES

- An order transferring a case to Division JS, or reassigning a case, will be filed in each case with a copy mailed to the parties.
- The order of transfer may be signed by the Chief Judge, the Administrative Judge, or the Division Judge.
- For judicial economy, a transfer/reassignment order may list one or more cases to be transferred/reassigned. A certified copy of the order will be deemed to be an original and have the same force and effect as an original.
- If a transfer/reassignment order has more than one case listed, only one copy of the order will be sent to the following: State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, Department of Children and Families, court appointed attorneys having contracts with the Justice Administrative Commission, Guardian Ad Litem Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

DONE and SIGNED in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this 14 day of April, 2009.



Kathleen J. Kroll, Chief Judge