

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR BREVARD COUNTY,
FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:
05-42-B 2ND AMENDED
SUPERSEDES 05-42-B AMENDED

**IN RE: DOMESTIC RELATIONS - FAMILY COURT SOCIAL INVESTIGATOR
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

WHEREAS, FS § 61.20 authorizes the Court to order a social investigation in any action where there are custody and/or visitation issues related to a minor child; and

WHEREAS, the Court has employed the services of a qualified staff person (hereinafter called the "social investigator") to conduct, when assigned by the Court, social investigations and report to the Court; and

WHEREAS, FS § 61.20 provides that the social investigator shall render a written report to the Court and all parties of record in the proceeding; and

WHEREAS, the social investigator has limited time available to conduct Court ordered investigations; and

WHEREAS, the social investigator's file, for the most part, is subject to inspection by a party or counsel in a family law case; and

WHEREAS, the Court has determined that requiring the social investigator to submit to depositions and discovery requests could be an unreasonable burden on the investigator, particularly as to the location of the deposition, and the duration of the deposition.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. No party in a cause in which the social investigator has been appointed may propound discovery requests to or subpoena the social investigator to appear as a witness at deposition without prior leave of court.
2. The contents of the social investigator's file, including the report, shall be sealed unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Copies of said report shall be provided to the parties.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 above, the social investigator's file, excluding privileged documents may be examined by any party or their counsel upon reasonable advance notice during normal business hours. The social investigator's schedule for conducting investigations shall take precedent over any appointment for examination of a file. Privileged documents include, but are not limited to, DCF reports, psychological and medical records, and the investigators' work product (e.g. investigators' notes of interviews with the minor children or their personal impressions.)
4. One copy of the report shall be provided to each party without cost. Any other document in the social investigator's file may be copied and provided to a party or counsel upon advance payment of a \$1.00 per page copy fee.

DONE AND ORDERED this 1st day of September, 2005.

KERRY I. EVANDER
KERRY I. EVANDER
CHIEF JUDGE

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