

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:
23-41-S

**IN RE: MAGISTRATES - DELINEATION OF MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO GENERAL
MAGISTRATE ASSIGNED TO THE CIVIL DIVISION**

WHEREAS under Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.215, the Chief Judge is authorized to develop an administrative plan for the efficient and proper administration of all Courts within the Circuit, to include establishing an administrative organization capable of effecting the prompt disposition of cases; and

WHEREAS the Court has determined that the appointment of General Magistrates is integral to the effectiveness of such a plan; and

WHEREAS it has become necessary to delineate the type of matters to be referred to the General Magistrate assigned to the civil division for Seminole County; and

WHEREAS it has also become necessary to provide a formal procedure to obtain the consent of the parties for a matter to be appropriately referred to the General Magistrate pursuant to Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.490(c);

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit of Florida under Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.215, it is hereby ordered that the General Magistrate assigned to the civil division for Seminole County shall have jurisdictional authority to hear certain matters as set forth herein, and that the procedure to obtain consent of the parties to a referral of a civil matter to the General Magistrate shall be as set forth below:

1. Upon the referral of a Circuit Judge in the civil division, the General Magistrate shall hear only those matters specifically referred.
2. The General Magistrate shall not be referred, nor shall they hear the following matters:
 - a. Jury trials
 - b. Bench trials
3. Any party that does NOT consent to a matter being heard by a General Magistrate after an Order of Referral has been entered by a Circuit Judge in the civil division MUST file a written objection to the referral within 10 days of the time of service of the Order of

Referral. However, if the time set for the hearing with the General Magistrate upon the matter being heard is less than 10 days after service of process of the initial pleading, the time to file an objection is extended to the time within which a responsive pleading is due. The failure to file a written objection within the applicable time period is deemed to be a consent to the referral.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall continue until further order of the Court.

DONE AND ORDERED this 14th day of November 2023.

CHARLIE CRAWFORD
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CHIEF JUDGE

Distribution:

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