

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:

00-29

**SUPERSEDES 91-97**

IN RE: **SENIOR JUDGE ASSIGNMENT**

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The Chief Justice, by memorandum, outlined the procedure authorizing Chief Judges to assign senior judges to individual circuits. The Judges of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, by majority vote, directed the Chief Judge to apply the priorities identified by the Chief Justice for assignment of senior judges.

Apart from the criteria for the assignment of senior judges, Chief Justice urges that senior judges not be used in lengthy or complex cases that will likely remain in the system for a long period of time or the use of a senior judge for short-term absences for active judges.

The use of senior judges for vacations is strongly discouraged in the instances where an active Judge may not reasonably be assigned.

IT IS ORDERED, that senior judges are to be used in accordance with the following priorities:

1. Speedy trial rule problems and for coverage of criminal dockets, including statewide prosecution/grand jury cases that would otherwise be disruptive of criminal calendars;
2. Long duration civil trials that would otherwise be disruptive of civil calendars;
3. Special categories of cases where an available senior judge has developed the necessary expertise (e.g., asbestos cases);
4. Other long duration criminal trials;
5. Cases requiring a nonresident judge and no active judges are available in adjacent circuits/counties;
6. Short term emergencies due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances;
7. Planned medical absences, for which coverage cannot be provided in advance;
8. Parental or other family leave, and military leave for which coverage cannot be provided in advance;
9. Incapacity of a judge;
10. Vacancies due to retirement, death, or appointment;

11. During the suspension of a judge pending completion of criminal or Judicial Qualifications Commission investigations;
12. To preside over a previously heard case;
13. To cover absences caused by judicial participation in continuing education activities; and
14. To cover absences caused by judicial participation in the statewide committees or councils, or work of the judicial conferences. In all instances where existing judicial labor can be utilized, senior judges are not to be requested.

DONE and ORDERED this 18TH day of DECEMBER, 2000.

J. PRESTON SILVERNAIL  
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CHIEF JUDGE

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