

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:
26-02 AMENDED
SUPERSEDES 26-02

**IN RE: JUDGES - APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY COURT JUDGES TO HANDLE CIRCUIT
CASES IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS**

Due to the fact that it is necessary, from time to time, for county court judges to hear and determine matters of the circuit court when a judge of that court is not available, and in order to maximize the efficient administration of justice and judicial labor in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, pursuant to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b), it is thereupon, ORDERED:

- I. That qualified county court judges in Brevard and Seminole Counties are authorized and directed to supplement and aid the circuit judges of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit by sitting as circuit judges in the following matters:
 - A. Causes of action for injunctions for protection against domestic violence in violation of section 741.30, Florida Statutes;
 - B. Causes of action for injunctions for protection in cases of repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence in violation of section 784.046, Florida Statutes;
 - C. Causes of action for injunctions for protection against stalking in violation of section 784.0485, Florida Statutes;
 - D. Causes of action for contempt for failure to pay child support or other violations of a court order;
 - E. Causes of action for indirect criminal contempt for violation of injunctions;
 - F. Felony crimes;
 - G. Temporary and final hearings in DOM cases;
 - H. Modifications in DOM cases;
 - I. Shelter, Consequence, and Detention hearings in Juvenile matters;
 - J. Probate, guardianship, Baker Acts, and Marchman Acts;
 - K. Civil Cases;
 - L. Juvenile Dependency and Juvenile Delinquency;
 - M. Causes of actions for risk protection orders pursuant to section 790.401, Florida Statutes; and
 - N. Modifications of sentences pursuant to section 98.0751, Florida Statutes, or Article VI, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution.

- II. For purposes of conducting the aforementioned proceedings, I determine the following county court judges to be appropriately qualified:
- The Honorable Michelle A. Baker
 - The Honorable Thomas J. Brown
 - The Honorable Carsandra Buie
 - The Honorable Bryanna Bynum
 - The Honorable Wayne Culver
 - The Honorable James J. DeKleva
 - The Honorable Benjamin B. Garagozlo
 - The Honorable Sylvia Grunor
 - The Honorable Clarissa Harrell
 - The Honorable Kelly Ingram
 - The Honorable Katie Jacobus
 - The Honorable David C. Koenig
 - The Honorable Debra L. Krause
 - The Honorable Kimberly Musselman
 - The Honorable Aaron J. Peacock
 - The Honorable David E. Silverman
 - The Honorable Jonathan A. Skinner
- III. When the county court judges listed above conduct any of the circuit court matters listed in section I of this Order, the services of the county court judge are to be:
- a. Temporary;
 - b. Directed only to the specific classes of cases listed in section I of this Order;
 - c. Limited to assisting and supplementing the circuit judges; and
 - d. Restricted to only a fraction of the pending cases.
- IV. No county court judge shall be assigned to perform solely circuit court work absent a special order authorizing and directing said assignment (not to exceed sixty days in duration). *Crusoe v. Rowls*, 472 So. 2d 1163, 1165 n.2 (Fla. 1985).
- V. No county court judge shall be given successive and repetitive assignments to hear all circuit court matters in any special district within the circuit, absent a special order of assignment (not to exceed sixty days in duration). *Payret v. Adams*, 500 So. 2d 136, 138 (Fla. 1986).
- VI. When any of the county court judges listed above conduct any of the circuit court matters as described in section I of this Order, that county court judge shall have all powers and authority of a circuit judge in every respect. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the issuing of orders in the circuit court so assigned, as deemed necessary and appropriate.

VII. This Order shall be in effect on July 1, 2026, and for a period of six months from the date of its rendition.

DONE and ORDERED this 25th day of June, 2026.



MELANIE CHASE
CHIEF JUDGE

Distribution:

All Circuit and County Judges (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
Court Administration (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
Clerk of Court (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
State Attorney (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
Public Defender (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
Sheriff (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
Bar Association (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
Law Library (Brevard and Seminole Counties)
County Attorney (Brevard and Seminole Counties)