

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. H-2012-1

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CREATING DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT

WHEREAS the Fifth Judicial Circuit seeks to assist Hernando County (the "County") in implementing a comprehensive anti-drug and anti-alcohol abuse program whereby parents in dependency cases receive treatment and support services; and

WHEREAS the County requires the assistance of the Court to provide the services pursuant to contractual obligations; and

WHEREAS a separate subdivision of the Family Law Division of the Circuit Court is required to assist in the referral of certain eligible individuals for drug and alcohol treatment and support toward the goal of reunifying and strengthening families; and

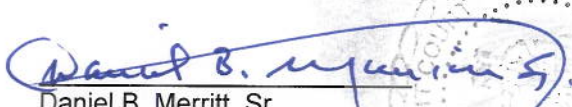
WHEREAS a Dependency Drug Court financial account is necessary for fees collected from participants of the program and funds received from grants; and

WHEREAS it is necessary for the efficient administration of justice, it is therefore

ORDERED that:

1. Dependency Drug Court is hereby created as a new subdivision of the Family Law Division of the Circuit Court, which shall be known as "Dependency Drug Court."
2. Dependency Drug Court may handle eligible cases from the other Family Law Divisions for possible referral into alcohol and drug treatment and support as approved by the presiding judge to whose docket the case was originally assigned.
3. The General Magistrate or such other Judge appointed by the Administrative Judge is hereby assigned to Dependency Drug Court.
4. In order to comply with the requirements of Dependency Drug Court, cases in Dependency Drug Court will also continue simultaneously in the Dependency Case (or other family law case) from which the case originated prior to its referral to Dependency Drug Court unless modified by the presiding judge in the original case.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida this 7th day of February 2012.


Daniel B. Merritt, Sr.
Administrative Judge
Hernando County

