

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE  
STATE OF FLORIDA

LOCAL RULE NUMBER 6A

LOCAL RULE ESTABLISHING A FAMILY LAW DIVISION  
WITHIN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida, in Opinion No. 77,623, held that each judicial circuit should develop a local rule establishing a family law division or a means to coordinate family law matters that affect one family; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court set forth in said opinion certain guidelines and requirements to be addressed in a local rule establishing a family law division; and

WHEREAS, the judges of the Fifth Judicial Circuit agree that every effort should be made to comply with the requirements of said opinion and develop procedures for the family law division which will most benefit the citizens of this jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Judicial Circuit is comprised of five counties of varying population, case-types, number of resident circuit judges, and other factors which must be considered in the implementation of a family law division; and

WHEREAS, the chief judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, pursuant to Rule 2.050 (b)(5), Florida Rules of Judicial

Administration, has designated and assigned an administrative judge in each of the several counties of the circuit to assist with the supervision of the court; it is therefore

RESOLVED that the Rules of the Fifth Judicial Circuit shall be amended to include this Rule regarding a Family Law Division of the Fifth Judicial Circuit:

1. There is hereby created a Family Law Division of the Circuit Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

2. The administrative judges of the several counties of the Fifth Judicial Circuit shall by administrative order establish procedures for the Family Law Division within their respective county based upon the unique needs of the county and resources available to the court. The administrative judges shall further determine the number of circuit judges to be assigned to the Family Law Division and execute appropriate orders of assignment.

3. In each county of the Fifth Judicial Circuit the jurisdiction of the Family Law Division shall include the following case types:

- A. Dissolution of Marriage
- B. Child Custody
- C. Visitation Relief
- D. Marital Property Division
- E. URESA
- F. Petitions for Change of Name
- G. Paternity
- H. Adoptions
- I. Domestic Violence

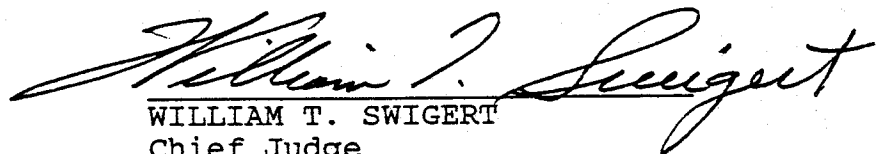
J. Related Modification Proceedings

Juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency proceedings may be included in the jurisdiction of the Division of any county of the Fifth Judicial Circuit upon order of the administrative judge of such county.

4. The administrative judges shall include in the administrative order establishing procedures for the Family Law Division in their respective county clear and definite procedures to provide for the coordination of cases and delivery of services in all family court matters that affect one family when such cases are distributed to more than one judge.

5. All cases within the jurisdiction of the Family Law Division shall be given priority over all other civil cases before a judge assigned to the Division in those instances where the family law case involves an imminent threat or danger to a person.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Ocala, Marion County  
Florida this 20th day of December, 1991.



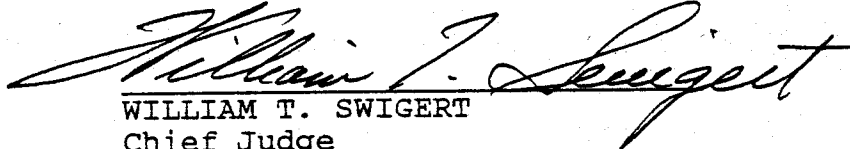
WILLIAM T. SWIGERT  
Chief Judge  
Fifth Judicial Circuit

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Local Rule A6 has been submitted to all judges, both circuit and county, of the Fifth Judicial Circuit and has been approved for implementation by a majority thereof. I further certify that the several Bar Associations within the Fifth Judicial Circuit were notified of this rule-making process, provided a copy of the proposal, and given an opportunity to be heard on the matter as required by Rule 2.050 (e) (1), Florida Rule of Judicial Administration.

DATE: December 20, 1991.

  
WILLIAM T. SWIGERT

Chief Judge  
Fifth Judicial Circuit