

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

Administrative Order No. M-2010-03

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER EXCUSING APPEARANCE OF PARTIES AND  
HEARINGS IN CERTAIN FAMILY CASES SETTLED BY  
MEDIATED AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS** the number of family cases filed and reopened continues to increase making hearing times harder to schedule; and

**WHEREAS** litigants are affected by the state of the economy and the job market; and

**WHEREAS** requiring hearings where all issues are settled costs the attorneys and litigants time and the litigants money; and

**WHEREAS** the Court has, in accordance with the procedures outlined in Administrative Order M-99-9, accepted written agreements on initial proceedings and modifications and entered final or supplemental judgments without a hearing when both parties are represented; and

**WHEREAS**, section 41.102, Florida Statutes, in circuits in which a family mediation program has been established and upon a court finding of a dispute, requires the presiding Circuit Judge refer to mediation all or part of parenting, time sharing and parental responsibility issues as defined in section 61.13, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, certain contested domestic disputes can be amicably and expeditiously resolved through mediation;

**WHEREAS**, mediation is a process whereby a neutral third person acts to encourage the resolution of disputes through a non-adversarial process and assists the parties in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement; and

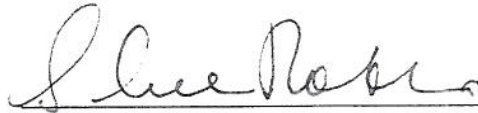
**WHEREAS**, Rule 10.310. Self-Determination, Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, requires decisions made during mediation be made by the parties and that the mediator is responsible for assisting the parties in reaching informed and voluntary decisions while protecting their right of self-determination;

**WHEREAS**, in uncontested family cases, it is advantageous to the Court, attorneys and parties to have a procedure for the entry of a final or supplemental judgment without a hearing, it is, therefore

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** (in addition to those cases covered by Administrative Order M-99-9) that in any family case in which at least one party is represented by an attorney and attended mediation conducted by a Florida Supreme Court family certified mediator and reached a full agreement on all pending issues, the parties may waive their right to a final hearing and request the Court enter an order prepared by an attorney, on the case, that incorporates the mediated settlement agreement and/or parenting plan. The request to waive hearing may be made by the parties in the mediated agreement. In that event, the documents that are required to close the case may be forwarded to the Court with a cover letter by the attorney.

All other conditions and requirements set forth in Administrative Order M-99-9 (e.g., parenting course completion certificates and financial affidavits) must be filed by both parties prior to submission of the Final Judgment for entering by the Court.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Ocala, Marion County, Florida, on February 1, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Sue Robbins", written over a horizontal line.

S. Sue Robbins  
Administrative Judge, Family Division