

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. A-2019-24

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER APPOINTING JUDGE WITH PRIMARY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAGUE CONVENTION CASES**

WHEREAS, The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (hereinafter “Hague Convention”) is a mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained from the child’s country of habitual residence.

WHEREAS, Florida law recognized the Hague Convention in sections 61.524 – 61.525, Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, the Hague Convention provides that a person whose custody rights have been breached by the wrongful removal or retention of a child under the age of sixteen may petition to the appropriate court where the child is located. And that, once an application for return has been filed, the court is required to act expeditiously in the proceedings for the return of the child.

WHEREAS, it is the Florida State Court System’s intention to better protect children from the effects of their wrongful removal through the establishment of a network of Florida judges who develop expertise in this important area of law.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution and Section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Rule 2.215(b)(4), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, allows the Chief Judge to assign judges to courts and divisions and determine length of each assignment; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court of Florida Administrative Order AOSC 19-19 provides the chief judge of each judicial circuit shall, by administrative order,

designate a judge with primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases filed within each circuit.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Ann Melinda Craggs serves as the Administrative Judge for Family Law Courts and Divisions of the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

WHEREAS, the Family Law Court cases contain Hague Convention issues; and

WHEREAS, Judge Craggs has indicated her willingness to accept the designation of “Judge with primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases in this circuit” and is willing to participate in relevant and cost-effective educational opportunities offered by the Florida Court Education Council and other judicial and legal education providers.

It is hereby **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that The Honorable Ann Melinda Craggs, Circuit Judge, is hereby appointed as judge with primary responsibility for Hague Convention cases filed within the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Ocala, Marion County, Florida, this 29th day of April, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Sue Robbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

S. Sue Robbins
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit