

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: M-2023-10

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CREATING FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

AND

RESCINDING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER M-2002-29

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2002, the Fifth Judicial Circuit issued Administrative Order No. M-2002-29, creating the Dependency Drug Court seeking “to assist Marion 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 use and services of Dependency Drug Court has expanded to include a more comprehensive program that addresses services/treatment for the family of a Drug Court participant; and

WHEREAS, the name “Dependency Drug Court” no longer sufficiently reflects the expanded, more comprehensive program available to participants and family members; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Circuit seeks to continue to assist Marion County (the “County”) in maintaining a comprehensive anti-drug and anti-alcohol 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 Family Treatment 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:

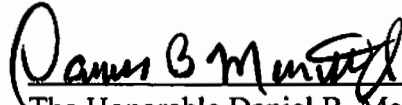
1. “Family Treatment Court” is hereby created to replace the Family Law

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Division of the Circuit Court, formerly known as Dependency Drug Court.

2. Family Treatment Court may handle eligible cases from the other Family Law Divisions for possible referral into alcohol and other drug treatment and support as approved by the presiding judge to whose docket the case was originally assigned.
3. Judge Stacy Youmans or such other Judge or General Magistrate appointed by the Administrative Judge is hereby assigned to Family Treatment Court.
4. In order to comply with the requirements of Family Treatment Court, cases in Family Treatment Court will also continue simultaneously in the Dependency case (or other family law case) from which the case originated prior to its referral to Family Treatment Court unless modified by the presiding Judge in the original case.
5. This Order shall be effective immediately shall apply to all pending and future cases before the Circuit Court in and for Marion County, Florida.
6. This order rescinds, supersedes, and replaces Administrative Order M-2002-29.

DONE and ORDERED in Chambers at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida this 7th of August, 2023.


The Honorable Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.
Chief Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit