

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
CITRUS, HERNANDO, LAKE, MARION AND SUMTER COUNTIES**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER A-2025-35

**IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF SYLVIA SIMMONS AS A CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT HEARING OFFICER**

WHEREAS, utilization of child support enforcement hearing officer in the Fifth Judicial Circuit or Florida is set forth in Administrative Order A-2020-08, the amendments thereof, or the administrative order which may replace A-2020-08; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to appoint Sylvia Simmons as a Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer pursuant to Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.491;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Sylvia Simmons is appointed to serve as a Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer in the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida.
2. As a Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer, Ms. Simmons shall have the power and the duty to:
 - a) Schedule, prepare for and conduct hearings in Title IV child support establishment and enforcement cases including 48 hour writ reviews on Title IV-D cases (unless otherwise directed by the Administrative Judge); conduct research; prepare orders; travel to outlying counties or courthouses to conduct such hearings; administrative duties directly related to these activities; and any other activity specified in 45 C.F.R. § 304.20 that is relevant to the duties of a hearing officer.
3. Upon conclusion of the hearing the Child Support Hearing Officer shall file the report and serve copies on the parties pursuant to Florida Family Rules of Procedure 12.491(e)(4). The Child Support Hearing Officers shall include with the report a proposed order.
4. The Child Support Hearing Officer shall take testimony and establish a record by electronic means pursuant to 2.535, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration. The record will be made, retained, and destroyed in accordance with Rule of Judicial Administration 2.430 and any administrative orders governing court reporting in the Fifth Circuit.
5. All actions taken before this date by this or any child support hearing officer are hereby confirmed.
6. This Order shall take effect 12:01 a.m. August 1, 2025, and will remain in full force and effect unless amended, rescinded, superseded, or replaced.

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DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, this
~~24th~~ day of July 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida