

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: M-2025-62

ORDER OF JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT JUDGES,
MAGISTRATES AND HEARING OFFICERS
FOR THE YEAR 2026

THIS CAUSE having come to the attention of the Court as one which affects the efficient administration of justice within Marion County, Florida, and the Court, having the authority to enter administrative orders pertaining to the efficient administration of justice, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, it is therefore ORDERED:

1. Effective January 2, 2026, cases shall be randomly distributed in the designated dockets of the Circuit Court of Marion County as follows:

Judge Jennifer Bass: •1/3 of Domestic Relations cases, including adoption and TPR cases filed under Ch. 63 on or after 7/1/2016 (Designation FC);

• Domestic and Dating Violence DR assigned to FC (including 1/3 Repeat, Stalking, Sexual Violence cases and After-hours injunctions);
• 1/3 Child Support Enforcement cases (Designation HC);
• 1/4 Baker/Marchman Act review and hearings not assigned to General Magistrate (April – June).

Judge Peter M. Brigham: •1/4 Felony (Designation W);
• 1/4 Jimmy Ryce cases.

Judge Ann Melinda Craggs: •1/3 of Domestic Relations cases, including adoption and TPR cases filed under Ch. 63 on or after 7/1/2016 (Designation FJ);

• Adoption and TPR cases filed under Ch. 63 prior to 7/1/2016;
• Domestic and Dating Violence DR cases assigned to FJ (including 1/3 Repeat, Stalking, Sexual Violence cases and After-hours injunctions);
• 1/3 Child Support Enforcement cases (Designation HJ);
• 1/2 Baker/Marchman Act review and hearings not assigned to General Magistrate (July - December);
• Hearings on Baker Acts and motions to involuntarily administer medication to DOC inmates.

Judge Lisa Herndon:

- 1/2 Civil (Designation G) and previous civil cases with designations of A, D, E, N, Q and R;
- 1/2 Forfeitures;
- 1/2 Bond Validations and Assessment Liens;
- 1/2 Eminent Domain;
- Veterans' Treatment Court.

Judge Robert W. Hodges:

- 1/2 Civil (Designation B), and previous civil cases with designations of C, K, M, P, S and T;
- 1/2 Forfeitures;
- 1/2 Bond Validations and Assessment Liens;
- 1/2 Eminent Domain;

Judge R. Gregg Jerald:

- 1/3 of Domestic Relations cases, including adoption and TPR cases filed under Ch. 63. on or after 7/1/2016 (Designation FG);
- Domestic and Dating Violence DR cases assigned to FG (including 1/3 Repeat, Stalking, Sexual Violence cases and After-hours injunctions);
- 1/3 Child Support Enforcement cases (Designation HG);
- ¼ Baker/Marchman Act review and hearings not assigned to General Magistrate (January - March);
- All RPO proceedings.

Judge Brad King:

- All Probate;
- All Guardianship, including all IPEVA proceedings;
- Juvenile Delinquency;
- Juvenile Detention hearings;
- Juvenile Drug Court;
- CINS/FINS;
- Truancy Court;
- Juvenile Sexting Infractions.

Judge Barbara Kissner Kwatkosky:

- 1/4 Felony (Designation X);
- 1/4 Jimmy Ryce cases.

Judge Timothy McCourt:

- 1/4 Felony (Designation Z);
- 1/4 Jimmy Ryce Cases;

Judge Steven G. Rogers:

- 1/4 Felony (Designation Y);
- 1/4 Jimmy Ryce cases;
- All Violations of Probation (VOPs) and Violations of Community Control (VOCCs) for individuals sentenced to the Marion County Felony Prison Diversion Drug Court Program;
- Felony Prison Diversion Drug Court;
- **Administrative Judge for Marion County**

Judge Stacy M. Youmans

- Juvenile Dependency;
- Dependency/Delinquency Crossover, Domestic Violence, and Domestic Relations cases (Designation FK);
- Administrative Child Support Enforcement cases (Designation HK);
- Shelter Hearings;
- TPR cases filed under Chapter 39 of Florida Statutes, and adoption cases following Chapter 39 TPRs.

General Magistrates:

- Hearings as designated by Administrative Order;
- Domestic Relations and other duties as assigned;
- Dependency matters as assigned;
- Mental Health cases as assigned (Baker Act and Marchman Act hearings).

Hearing Officer:

- Department of Revenue Child Support cases and other duties as assigned.

2. **CIVIL DESIGNATIONS** are as follows:

B, C, K, M, P, S and T - Judge Robert Hodges
G, A, D, E, N, Q and R - Judge Lisa Herndon

3. **FELONY DESIGNATIONS** are as follows:

W - Judge Peter M. Brigham
X - Judge Barbara Kissner Kwatkosky
Y - Judge Steven G. Rogers
Z - Judge Timothy McCourt

4. **DOMESTIC RELATIONS DESIGNATIONS** are as follows:

FC - Judge Jennifer Bass
FG - Judge R. Gregg Jerald
FJ - Judge Ann Melinda Craggs
FK - Judge Stacy M. Youmans

5. In the absence of the judge assigned to shelter and detention hearings and the judge who is providing coverage for the assigned judge, the judge who is assigned to handle weekend and after-hours matters will hear the shelter and/or detention hearings as required to comply with time restraints. In addition, all Marion County Circuit Judges will assist with shelter and detention hearings when necessary.

6. In any Domestic Violence and Repeat Violence cases where the parties have a pending domestic relations cases, such domestic/repeat violence case shall be assigned to the judge handling the domestic relations case. In any newly filed domestic relations cases where a Petition for Injunction for Protection has previously been filed, the domestic relations case shall be assigned to whichever judge handled the injunction.

7. Petitions for injunctions pursuant to Administrative Order M-2017-13 and other after-hours requests which require judicial action on weekends, holidays, and between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. on weekdays will be reviewed by all judges sitting in Marion County (Circuit Judges and County Judges) on a rotating basis. Such rotation shall be listed in the weekend and holiday duty assignments as set forth by a separate administrative order. In each case where a County Judge has such an assignment, said judge is hereby appointed as an acting Circuit Judge for the duration of such assignment. Likewise, a Circuit Judge is hereby appointed as an acting County Judge in any instance where County Court jurisdiction is required during such assignment.

8. Prior to noon on each Friday, the judge assigned to handle First Appearances, Shelter Hearings, and Detention Hearings that weekend will be delivered the duty judge telephone and computer which he/she will retain until the next Friday at noon, at which time the duty judge telephone and computer will be delivered to the next assigned judge. When a holiday falls on a Friday, the duty will switch at noon and the holiday will be split between the two judges on that day. It will be the responsibility of the morning duty judge to handle all First Appearances, Shelter Hearings, and Detention Hearings. Each judge so assigned (the "Duty Judge") will be responsible for ensuring that a judge is available during usual courthouse business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00

p.m. Monday through Friday), except lunch hour, to help to review petitions for injunctions and other matters which require immediate attention. The hearing dates and times required on petitions for injunctions that are filed after hours on weekends, and on holidays will be provided by the Domestic Relations judges on a rotating basis.

9. The assignment for service as judge for juror qualification for 2026 is addressed in a separate administrative order.

10. Each judge of the felony divisions will be responsible to attend to any grand jury matters during the following time periods:

Judge McCourt – January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026.

Judge Rogers – April 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

Judge Kissner Kwatkosky – July 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026.

Judge Brigham – October 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Ocala, Marion County, Florida, this 4th day of December, 2025.



**STEVEN G. ROGERS
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
MARION COUNTY**