

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.: S-2025-58

**ORDER OF JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR SUMTER COUNTY
CIRCUIT JUDGES, COUNTY JUDGES, GENERAL MAGISTRATE AND
HEARING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2026**

THIS CAUSE having come to the attention of the Court as one which affects the efficient administration of justice within Sumter County, and the Court having the authority to enter administrative orders pertaining to the efficient administration of justice, and the Court being advised, it is therefore

ORDERED as follows:

1. This Order shall be effective as of February 2, 2026.
2. Assignment of Judicial duties among the Judges and Judicial

Officers of Sumter County shall be as follows:

I. The **Honorable Mary P. Hatcher**, Administrative Judge and Circuit Judge of Sumter County, is hereby assigned the following cases:

- All Felony and;
- Jimmy Ryce Cases.

II. The **Honorable Erin Daly**, Circuit Judge of Sumter County, is hereby assigned the following cases:

- All Circuit Civil cases;
- Guardianship;
- Mental Health, including Risk Protection Orders;

- Drug Court.

III. The **Honorable Charles L. Helm**, Circuit Judge of Sumter County, is hereby assigned the following cases:

- All Domestic Relations;
- Juvenile Delinquency;
- Juvenile Dependency;
- Unified Family Court;
- Probate.

IV. The **Honorable Paul L. Militello**, County Judge of Sumter County, is hereby assigned the following cases:

- County Criminal;
- Criminal Traffic;
- Civil Traffic Infractions involving serious bodily injury, fatality, or associated with a criminal case.

V. The **New County Judge** is hereby assigned the following cases:

- County Civil;
- Small Claims;
- Civil Traffic Infractions not involving serious bodily injury, fatality, or associated with a criminal case;
- First Appearances.

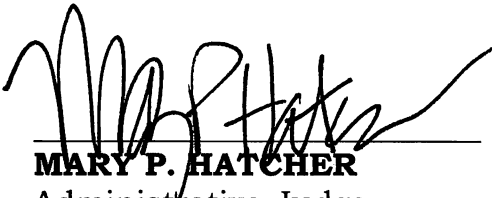
VI. The **General Magistrate** assigned to Sumter County is hereby assigned to hear such matters including, but not limited to:

- Juvenile Dependency arraignments;
- Judicial reviews and permanency judicial reviews;
- Name changes;
- Adoptions;
- Dissolutions of marriage;
- Paternity and post dissolution/paternity proceedings;
- Simplified dissolutions of marriage filed Pro Se;
- Unified Family Court proceedings as assigned by Judge Helm.

VII. The **Child Support Hearing** Officer assigned to Sumter County is hereby assigned to hear such matters including, but not limited to:

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

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida, on this 20th day of January 2026.


MARY P. HATCHER
Administrative Judge
Sumter County