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DAVE LANG
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 97-02

IN RE: JUVENILE DEPENDENCY MEDIATION

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit has received funding from the Department of Children and Families and the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida to establish a Pilot Dependency Mediation Program in Leon County, and

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit has established a number of alternative dispute programs, and has created the Leon County Family Mediation Program to provide coordination of existing and new programs to foster amicable settlement of disputes, and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program would be in the best interests of the citizens of the Second Judicial Circuit, and

IT IS THEREFORE

ORDERED THAT

1 A Juvenile Dependency Mediation Pilot Program is herewith established under the auspices of the Leon County Family Mediation Program for a period of nine months to determine its feasibility Procedures for this mediation shall be established by the Leon County Family Mediation Program, subject to approval by the juvenile division judges in Leon County

2 At the inception of the pilot program, mediators of juvenile dependency matters shall be certified family mediators and a maximum of two cases per week from the juvenile court will be referred for mediation, subject to the availability of mediators

3 Only those cases referred by the juvenile division judges in Leon County shall be processed though mediation

4 At the direction of the presiding judge, the clerk shall set a date for the mediation to be completed within thirty (30) days from the issuance of the mediation order

5 In the event mediation fails, the dependency trial shall be set before the court within forty-five (45) days after the mediator declares an impasse to the mediation

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6 All parties as defined by Rule 8 210, Juvenile Rules of Procedure, their counsel and their employees, may be required to attend such mediation session by order of the court

7 All issues raised and facts discussed during the course of mediation shall be confidential, as provided by law, and shall not become part of the court record Any agreement executed by all the parties and approved by the court shall become part of the court record

8 Nothing contained herein shall abrogate the rights and/or obligations required by any statute.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 18th day of March, 1997

N SANDERS SAULS
CHIEF JUDGE

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LEON COUNTY
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