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02/13/2006 at 12:23 PM, BOB INZER, CLERK OF COURTS

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2006-3

**IN RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED FAMILY COURT SECTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Supreme Court, in In re: Report of the Family Court Steering Committee, 794 So. 2d 518 (Fla. 2001), directed each circuit to submit a revised local rule or administrative order consistent with the recommendations approved by the Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Supreme Court adopted the guiding principles and characteristics of the model family court developed by the Family Court Steering Committee and reaffirmed its goal of the creation of a fully integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases involving children and families in crisis, while at the same time resolving family disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost effective manner; and

**WHEREAS**, a Family Law Division was renewed in the 2$^{d}$ Judicial Circuit pursuant to Administrative Order 2005-07 dated November 3, 2005, as amended, and the undersigned has determined that changes to the composition of the Family Law Division are necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, Unified Family Court (UFC) was established in the 2$^{d}$ Judicial Circuit pursuant to Administrative Order 2004-01 dated January 6, 2004;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to establish a UFC Section wherein crossover cases will be transferred and addressed by the UFC Section judge;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the 2$^{d}$ Judicial Circuit of Florida, hereby order that, effective immediately, a UFC Section is established and shall operate in accordance with the following:

1. The Honorable Nikki Ann Clark is hereby designated the UFC Section judge and shall preside over the crossover docket.

2. A Crossover Case is defined as: any open and active Dependency or Delinquency case with an open or reopen domestic relations case, including domestic violence cases, involving the same family.

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3. The following case type combinations meet the criteria for a crossover case:
   Dependency/Delinquency
   Dependency/Domestic Relations
   Dependency/Domestic Violence
   Dependency/Delinquency/Domestic Violence
   Dependency/Domestic Relations/Domestic Violence
   Dependency/Delinquency/Domestic Relations
   Delinquency/Domestic Relations
   Delinquency/Domestic Violence

4. All crossover cases will be identified, initially, by the Clerk of Court and then sent to the UFC Case Manager for further review and recommendation of assignment to the UFC Section.

5. The UFC Case Manager will provide all crossover cases and pertinent information to the UFC Section judge for handling and at such time an order of reassignment will be entered and distributed to all parties in each crossover case.

6. The UFC Case Manager will attend all shelter hearings and provide referrals for community services as needed; screen delinquency cases for any crossover cases; create the master UFC file for the UFC Section judge; attend UFC court hearings; track and collect data for statistical reports; and draft and prepare various court orders as needed.

7. For each case designated as a crossover case and assigned to Judge Clark, the Clerk of Court for Leon County shall assign a family law case to Judge Angela C. Dempsey, on a case for case basis. The assignment to Judge Dempsey shall occur subsequent to the order of reassignment of the crossover cases (eg. six cases designated as crossover cases and assigned to Judge Clark, the next six family law cases, normally assigned to Judge Clark, shall be assigned to Judge Dempsey). In no event, shall Judge Dempsey be assigned in excess of 6 2/3% of the family law case filings in any calendar year.

8. The UFC Case Manager shall maintain a list of all UFC designated cases and shall report monthly to the Chief Judge and the Trial Court Administrator on assignment and subsequent reassignment of all cases in conformance with this Administrative Order.

This Administrative Order shall become effective immediately.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers in Leon County, Florida, this 9th day of February, 2006.

Charles A. Francis

CHARLES A. FRANCIS
CHIEF JUDGE

cc: All Circuit and County Court Judges
All Clerks of Circuit Court
Court Administration



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