

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ASSIGNMENT OF CASES IN ALL DIVISIONS OF CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS

WHEREAS, Rule 2.050, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, places upon upon the Chief Judge of the judicial circuit the responsibility for prompt and efficient administration of the court's business; and,

WHEREAS, the prompt and proper disposition of cases is more readily achieved by the establishment of procedures for the assignment and reassignment of cases within all divisions and subdivisions of circuit and County Courts in Orange County;

NOW, THEREFORE, the following procedures, effective until further order, shall govern the assignment or reassignment of cases with the courts in Orange County:

1. All cases filed in any court division and assigned to any subdivision (except those brought under Chapter 88, F.S., the Uniform Support of Dependents Act) will, at the time of filing, be assigned by the clerk to one of the Judges assigned to that division, according to a system of assignment of cases devised by the clerk that will, over a reasonable period of time, effect an even distribution of the case load among the Judges of that division and preclude a selection of the Judge by the parties in an action. The subdivision number of the Judge receiving the case will be stamped by the clerk on the case file and the copy of the first pleading or paper served on the defendant. Except for sufficient cause shown, the Judge to whom a cause is initially assigned will hear the case throughout except that the Chief Judge or the Administrative Judge of a division or the Administrative Judge of the County Court or the Administrative Judge of the Orlando Traffic Division or the Administrative Judge of the County Criminal Justice Division may reassign any case over which he has authority to do so for any reason appearing to him to be sufficient.
2. Any action, whether civil, criminal, juvenile, probate or any matters in the Probate Division, or any case filed within any division of the County Court, between the same parties, which was formerly assigned to another subdivision which is dismissed, abated or nolle prosequi and thereafter refiled, shall be reassigned by the Chief Judge or the Administrative Judge of the division, or the Administrative Judge of the County Court, to the subdivision in which it was originally pending. It shall be the primary duty of the party or that party's attorney who has refiled the case to bring to the judge's attention that the case in question had been previously filed in another subdivision. However, all parties or attorneys in the refiled case shall have this duty also.
3. When two or more cases, regardless of the nature thereof, are pending in the same division of the Circuit or County Court which might be appropriately considered or tried together, but which are assigned to different subdivisions, either Judge of those subdivisions, upon learning of the same, shall so advise the Chief Judge, the Administrative Judge of the division, or the

administrative Judge of the County Court, who shall assign the companion cases(s) bearing the highest number to the subdivision to which the lowest numbered case is assigned. Any such reassignment, once made, shall, as a general matter of policy, remain permanent, regardless of the fact that such cases may not, for any reason, be ultimately tried together. The Judge to whom the case(s) is reassigned shall determine if the case(s) shall be consolidated with the lower numbered case. However, the Chief Judge or the Administrative Judge of any division or the Administrative Judge of the County Court may reassign any case over which he has authority to do so for any reason appearing to him to be sufficient.

4. This order shall become applicable and effective on the date filed with the clerk of the courts. DONE AND ORDERED at Orlando, Florida, this day of April, 1984.

George N. Diamantis
Chief Judge

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER - 07-83-25
SIGNED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE - 04/05/84
FILED WITH CLERK -04/05/84