

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Re: County Court Jurisdiction - Osceola County

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 1322, enacted by the 1990 Florida Legislature, amending Section 34.01(2), Florida Statutes, to provide for County Court jurisdiction over matters involving dissolution of marriage under the simplified dissolution procedure pursuant to Rule 1.611(c), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, or may issue a final order for dissolution in cases where the matter is uncontested, and

WHEREAS, the County Judges and the Domestic Relations Division of Circuit Court in Osceola County are housed on the same premises with court files and court rooms conveniently accessible, and

WHEREAS, the distribution of caseloads among the Circuit Judges is such that the Domestic Relations Division and the Juvenile Division are assigned to one Judge, resulting in a total caseload that is inequitable and taxing for one Judge, and

WHEREAS, the Clerk of Court has requested that a procedure be established whereby assignments can be determined and statistics compiled for those cases which fall under Section 34.01(2), Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Emerson R. Thompson, Jr., pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, do hereby order that the following procedures shall be established to be effective October 1, 1990, and shall continue until further order:

1. The Clerk of Court shall assign all cases involving dissolution of marriage under the simplified dissolution procedure to the County Judge hearing Civil matters. Court files for such cases shall be imprinted or stamped "SIMPLIFIED" and thereby distinguished from all other dissolution of marriage cases.

2. The Clerk of Court shall assign all cases for dissolution of marriage that are initially filed as uncontested to the County Judge hearing Civil matters. Court files for such cases shall be imprinted or stamped "UNCONTESTED" and thereby distinguished from all other dissolution of marriage cases.

3. If a dissolution of marriage case that is initially filed as contested later is determined to be uncontested, the parties shall file a joint stipulation, affidavit or oral request declaring that the case is now uncontested, and the Clerk of Court shall imprint or stamp the court file as "UNCONTESTED" and reassign the case to the County Judge hearing Civil matters.

4. In the event that any case involving dissolution of marriage that is assigned to a County Judge should become contested in any matter, such case shall be reassigned to the Circuit Judge hearing Domestic Relations matters.

5. The Clerk of Court shall compile and record statistics for all cases assigned to the County Judge under this Administrative Order and shall include these statistics on all relevant reports after October 1, 1990, in accordance with Senate Bill 1322, Chapter 90-269, Laws of Florida.