

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2019-05-01

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

**AMENDED ORDER GOVERNING CASES INVOLVING THE HAGUE CONVENTION  
ON CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (hereinafter “the Convention”) is a mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained from the child’s country of habitual residence; and


**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Convention, a person whose custody rights have been breached by the wrongful removal or retention of a child under the age of sixteen may petition to the appropriate court where the child is located; and

**WHEREAS**, once an application for return has been filed, the court is required to act expeditiously in the proceedings for the return of the child; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Florida State Courts System to better protect children from the effects of their wrongful removal through the establishment of a network of Florida judges who develop expertise in this important area of law;

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit and in accordance with Supreme Court of Florida Administrative Order No. AOSC19-19, and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, I hereby designate **THE HONORABLE BARBARA J. LEACH** with primary responsibility for handling Convention cases filed with the Ninth Judicial Circuit, effective immediately, to continue until further order, and superseding any provisions in prior Administrative Orders which may be inconsistent.

**DONE AND ORDERED** at Orlando, Florida, this 29th day of June, 2021.

  
Donald A. Myers, Jr.  
Chief Judge

Copies to:

Clerk of Courts, Orange County  
Clerk of Courts, Osceola County  
General E-Mail Distribution List  
<http://www.ninthcircuit.org>