

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PASCO AND PINELLAS COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-022 PI-CIR

**RE: PINELLAS CIRCUIT CIVIL SECTIONS 8 AND 21 – CLOSURE**

This Administrative Order directs the reassignment of circuit civil cases from section 8 to section 11, 13, or 19, and the reassignment of circuit civil cases from section 21 to section 7, 15, or 20, and provides for matters currently scheduled to be heard in sections 8 and 21.

In accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution, Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes,

**IT IS ORDERED:**

**For Section 8 Cases:**

1. All cases in section 8 will be reassigned to section 11, 13, or 19. In order to implement this change, the Pinellas Clerk of the Circuit Court (Clerk) is directed to reassign to sections 11, 13, or 19 all open and re-opened cases in section 8 on or before September 4, 2020; however the judge currently assigned to section 8 will continue to schedule and hear open cases through December 31, 2020, even though the case has been technically reassigned. Any hearings in these cases to be heard after December 31, 2020, must be scheduled before the new section judge.

2. These cases are to be reassigned to sections 11, 13, or 19 in a manner that results in approximately the same number of cases assigned to each section. In completing the re-assignments, if the judge in section 11, 13, or 19 has entered an order of recusal from all cases involving that party or attorney, the case should not be re-assigned to that section, but should be reassigned to another St. Petersburg circuit civil section where the judge has not entered an order of recusal.

3. Effective immediately, new cases filed after the reassignment of open and pending cases in section 8 are made should be assigned in accordance with the Administrative Order for the assignment of civil, family law, county civil, and small claims divisions in Pinellas County.

4. As soon as possible, the Clerk is directed to take the following steps to provide notice of all cases to be assigned to a new section in accordance with this Administrative Order:

- a. Post a notice on the Clerk's website;
- b. Send an email notification through the local bar associations; and
- c. Make docket/event entry in Odyssey that will alert parties of the new section assignments effective January 1, 2021.

5. After the above cases are reassigned, the Clerk shall confirm to the Chief Judge that Odyssey only includes cases in section 8 that are closed.

6. When a motion is filed that re-opens a case assigned to section 8, the Clerk is directed to

assign the matter to section 11, 13, or 19 in accordance with the Administrative Order for the assignment of civil, family law, county civil, and small claims divisions in Pinellas County.

**For Section 21 Cases:**

1. All cases in section 21 will be reassigned to section 7, 15, or 20. In order to implement this change, the Clerk is directed to reassign to sections 7, 15, or 20 all open and re-opened cases in section 21 on or before September 4, 2020; however the judge currently assigned to section 21 will continue to schedule and hear open cases through December 31, 2020 even though the case has been technically reassigned. Any hearings in these cases to be heard after December 31, 2020, must be scheduled before the new section judge.

2. These cases are to be reassigned to sections 7, 15, or 20 in a manner that results in approximately the same number of cases assigned to each section. In completing the re-assignments, if the judge in section 7, 15, or 20 has entered an order of recusal from all cases involving that party or attorney, the case should not be re-assigned to that section, but should be reassigned to another Clearwater circuit civil section where the judge has not entered an order of recusal.

3. Effective immediately, new cases filed after the reassignment of open and pending cases in section 21 are made should be assigned in accordance with the Administrative Order for the assignment of civil, family law, county civil, and small claims divisions in Pinellas County.

4. As soon as possible, the Clerk is directed to take the following steps to provide notice of all cases to be assigned to a new section in accordance with this Administrative Order:

- a. Post a notice on the Clerk's website;
- b. Send an email notification through the local bar; and
- c. Make docket/event entry in Odyssey that will alert parties of the new section assignments effective January 1, 2021.

5. After the above cases are reassigned, the Clerk shall confirm to the Chief Judge that Odyssey only includes cases in section 21 that are closed.

6. When a motion is filed that re-opens a case assigned to section 21, the Clerk is directed to assign the matter to section 7, 15, or 20, in accordance with the Administrative Order for the assignment of civil, family law, county civil, and small claims divisions in Pinellas County.

In those cases currently scheduled for trial or ready to be scheduled for trial in sections 8 or 21, the parties shall confer within 30 days of this order and schedule a Case Management Conference with the newly assigned section judge in order to schedule or confirm a trial date.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at St Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August 2020.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON AUGUST 28, 2020  
BY ANTHONY RONDOLINO, CHIEF JUDGE

cc: All Pinellas Judges  
The Honorable Bernie McCabe, State Attorney  
The Honorable Bob Dillinger, Public Defender  
The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pinellas County  
Gay Inskip, Trial Courts Administrator  
Ita M. Neymotin, Regional Counsel, Second District  
Ngozi Acholonu, Assistant Regional Counsel, Second District  
Jeff Rohrs, BTS Chief Information Officer, Pinellas Business Technology Services  
Tim Staney, Program Manager, Pinellas Business Technology Services  
Tonya Rainwater, Justice CCMS Project Sponsor  
Bar Associations, Pasco and Pinellas Counties  
Law Libraries, Pasco and Pinellas Counties