

HONORABLE JAMES R. STEARNS
Juvenile Dependency/Unified Family Court
Jessica L. Smith, Judicial Assistant
West Pasco Judicial Center
(727) 847-8095

As I sign all proposed Orders in an expeditious manner, I would request that the month and year be included on all Orders, rather than blank lines to be completed. All Orders, other than those provided by the State Attorney, must include the appropriate service copies and postage-paid envelopes for all associated parties.

When submitting a proposed Order by mail for entry by the Court, the proposed Order must be reviewed and approved by all counsel associated with the case, and your cover letter must state that you have provided the proposed Order to counsel and there is no objection to the content of the Order.

With regard to all requests to have motions heard on an emergency basis, please email a copy of the motion to my judicial assistant, Jess, at jsmith@jud6.org for my review prior to requesting a hearing. I will review the motion prior to approving an emergency hearing.

Please make every effort to have a copy of all reports, home studies and motions provided to me prior to any scheduled hearing so that I have time to review same in preparation for hearing.

With regard to any case that is ready to be set for Final Hearing of Adoption, the Petition for Adoption and related documents must be filed and the file reviewed before a hearing date will be set. Once you have filed the Petition, please contact my judicial assistant at 727-847-8095 or by email at jsmith@jud6.org and provide her with the case number for the adoption. She will then order the file and have it reviewed, and upon completion of the review, you will be contacted to set a hearing date.