

# HONORABLE AARON W. HUBBARD County Court Judge Community Violence Division Section CV2 / Jimmy Ryce Section 060 Pinellas County Justice Center 14250 49th Street North Clearwater, FL 33762

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## JUDICIAL PRACTICE PREFERENCES COMMUNITY VIOLENCE SECTION CV2 / JIMMY RYCE SECTION 060

"Dignity and Respect are the watchwords of professional practice. Everyone should treat everyone involved with Dignity and Respect."

#### INITIAL PETITIONS FOR INJUNCTIONS AND RETURN HEARINGS

All new injunction cases are assigned to one of the eight Family Law Judges as we do not have designated Community Violence Sections yet in Odyssey, the Clerk's file management System. However, initial injunction return hearings will be heard by one of the three Community Violence Judges and will be conducted at the Pinellas County Justice Center (CJC), 14250 49<sup>th</sup> St N., Courtroom 11-13, Clearwater, FL 33762. (A return hearing may sometimes be rescheduled before the assigned Family Law Judge if they are also assigned to an open and active Dissolution or Paternity case involving the same parties.)

#### **ZOOM APPEARANCES**

All Hearings are conducted <u>LIVE</u>. Any party who wishes to appear electronically for the Return Hearing MUST file a written motion to appear electronically with the Clerk of the Court at least 2 days prior to the scheduled hearing. Additionally, a copy of the motion must be emailed to <u>dvmotions@jud6.org</u>. Should you have any questions, please contact the Sixth Circuit's Domestic Violence Office by email to <u>dvoffice@jud6.org</u> or by phone at (727) 582-7567.

#### IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER:

THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT CANNOT ANSWER YOUR LEGAL QUESTIONS AND WILL NOT EXPLAIN YOUR SITUATION TO THE JUDGE.

The Clerk of Court has a Self Help Program for self-represented (pro se) litigants at:

Pinellas County Courthouse, phone (727) 464-5150 315 Court Street Clearwater, FL 33756

And

St. Petersburg Judicial Building, phone (727) 582-7941 545 First Avenue North St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

#### Other legal services:

Clearwater Bar Assn. (727) 461-4880 Clearwater Gulf coast Legal Services: (727) 443-0657 Clearwater

(727) 821-0726 St. Petersburg

Bay Area Legal Services (800) 625-1757

Community Law Program (727)582-7480 St. Petersburg St. Petersburg Bar Assn. (727) 821-5450 St. Petersburg

#### RESOURCES FOR VICTIM'S OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

\*\*ANYONE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER SHOULD CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY\*\*

#### **24-hour Domestic Violence hotline**

Pinellas County: 727-895-4912 / TTY: 727-828-1269

Florida Relay: 711

If you are a survivor, you can also receive free, confidential legal advice from the Florida Legal Services, Inc. Domestic Violence Hotline. Lawyers are available Monday-Friday from  $8:00\,\text{am}-4:00\,\text{pm}$  to answer legal questions, provide you with free legal advice on injunctions, family law, immigration, housing, public benefits and other matters. They may also be available refer you to other services for assistance.

#### Agencies that assist victims of domestic violence include:

Florida Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-500-1119

www.fcadv.org

Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA): 727-895-4912

www.casa-stpete.org

The Haven at Hope Villages of America: 727-442-4128 / 727-441-2029

https://hopevillagesofamerica.org
Shine the Light: 727-452-7007

shinealightondv@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/shinealightondv

Suncoast Center Inc.: 727-388-1220

www.suncoastcenter.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)

Rape Crisis Hotline: 727-530-7273

Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

#### **FILING MOTIONS**

When you file any motion with the Clerk of Court, please also provide a copy to the Court at <a href="mailto:DVMotions@jud6.org">DVMotions@jud6.org</a> for one of the Community Violence Judges to review. Please include the following information in your email:

- 1. Your name
- 2. Your case number
- 3. A copy of your motion
- 4. Your contact information, including e-mail address and phone number
- 5. Last known contact information for the other party
- 6. Any upcoming scheduled court dates

#### Types of Motions (both Pre-judgment and Post-judgment) include:

- 1. Motion to Continue
- 2. Motion to Dismiss
- 3. Motion to Modify Injunction
- 4. Motion to Extend Injunction
- 5. Motion for Contempt

You may obtain forms for these motions from the Clerk of Court, access them on the Pinellas County Clerk website, <a href="https://www.mypinellasclerk.org">https://www.mypinellasclerk.org</a>, or on the Florida Courts website, <a href="https://www.flcourts.gov/Resources-Services/Office-of-Family-Courts/Family-Law-Forms">https://www.flcourts.gov/Resources-Services/Office-of-Family-Courts/Family-Law-Forms</a>

DO NOT EMAIL MOTIONS TO THE SECTIONCV1, SECTIONCV2, OR SECTION CV3

JUDGES UNLESS REQUESTED BY THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT.

#### **EMERGENCY AND EXPEDITED MOTIONS:**

All Emergency and expedited Motions must be filed with the Clerk of Court prior to the Court determining emergency or expedited status. Pleadings should only include the words emergency and/or expedited if there is the potential for harm to one of the parties and/or minor children within 7 days. The Court does not receive motions through the Portal when you check "emergency". You must submit a copy of the Motion to the Court by either email, hand-delivery or regular U.S. mail. After review, the court may enter an Order without notice, schedule a hearing on the motion, seek a written response from the opposing party, or take other appropriate action. IMPORTANT: The Court will accept witness affidavit(s) one day prior to hearing and/or hear proffered testimony only to determine if a full hearing is needed.

#### **TESTIMONY FROM CHILDREN:**

Testimony from minor children is <u>NOT</u> permitted unless; the Court grants permission after a hearing on a Motion to Allow Child Testimony. The Court will not automatically honor stipulations for a child to testify in Court. <u>DO NOT</u> bring any minor children to contested hearings without prior Court approval. When a Motion for Child Testimony is granted, the Court will conduct an *in camera* interview with the child to be scheduled on a day after the Final Hearing has been concluded. The parties are to submit their proposed questions to the Court prior to the in *camera interview*.

#### **SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL:**

Rule of Judicial Administration 2.505e (2) requires the client gives WRITTEN consent. Upload the cover letter, stipulation, signed consent and proposed Order to JAWS. Proposed Orders approving stipulations for substitution of counsel without the written consent of the client will not be signed.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF COUNSEL:

The Court may consider Motions to Withdraw as Counsel, without requiring a hearing, as long as written consent by the client is provided, and the opposing party has no objection. The proposed Order MUST contain the complete contact information for the party (i.e. address, phone number, e-mail address, etc.). If you do not have the client's written consent, then the motion must be set for hearing with proper notice to the client.

#### **MOTIONS FOR REHEARING/RECONSIDERATION:**

All Motions for Rehearing/Reconsideration shall be filed timely with the Clerk of the Court pursuant to Fla. Fam. L.R.P. 12.530. A copy of the motion shall be emailed to <a href="mailto:dvmotions@jud6.org">dvmotions@jud6.org</a> after it has been filed with the Clerk of Court. The trial Judge will review the motion and determine it a hearing or entry or an order is appropriate.

#### ONE FAMILY - ONE JUDGE:

Family Law Rule 12.003 requires that all related family law cases MUST be handled before one judge unless impractical. AO 22-013 and 16-030 mirror and reference this rule.

### Specifically AO 22-013 references that cases must be assigned in accordance with 16-030.

"Petitions for temporary and final judgment of injunction against dating, domestic, repeat, sexual violence, and stalking shall continue to be assigned with the procedures for assignment of family law cases based upon the zip code of the petitioner or the petitioners attorney in accordance with Administrative Orders 2016-030 and 2020-023 or subsequent administrative orders."

# According to AO 16-030, all related family law cases are to be assigned to one Judge and the following is applicable to the case we had this morning based upon the definition of "related cases":

"For the purposes of this Administrative Order, a related case is one that involves one or more of the same parties or children as another case that is pending in the family division. Cases that have activity in the case progress docket within the preceding two years shall be treated as related cases. Cases that have no activity in the case progress docket for the preceding two years may be treated as related cases." "When related cases involve two or more of the same parties or children, have had activity in the case progress docket within at least the preceding two years, and one of the cases is a civil domestic violence, dissolution, paternity, or child support action, the Clerk shall reassign the more recently initiated case to the same judicial section to which the older case is assigned."