

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2018-008 PI-CIR

RE: UNIFIED FAMILY COURT – PINELLAS COUNTY

Unified Family Court in Pinellas County was created in 2001 by Administrative Order No. PI-CIR-2001-29 and consists of sections 1, 2, 5, and 6.

In order to ensure an even distribution of cases in the Pinellas County Unified Family Court sections, postal zone improvement plan (ZIP) codes were realigned in 2005 and 2009 by Administrative Orders 2005-004 PI-CIR and 2009-005 PI-CIR, respectively. In 2015, adoption cases that arise out of Chapter 39 juvenile dependency cases were assigned to the same section as the dependency cases. In order to continue to maintain efficient court operations, it has become necessary to update the Administrative Order assigning cases in Unified Family Court. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Unified Family Court (UFC) shall continue to be comprised of sections 1, 2, 5, and 6.
2. The Clerk of the Circuit Court shall assign the cases described in this Administrative Order using the residential ZIP assignments as follows:
 - a. Section 1: 33755, 33759, 33761, 33763, 33765, 34660, 34688, 34697, 34677, 34681, 34682, 34683, 34684, 34685, 34688, 34689, 34695, 34697, 34698
 - b. Section 2: 33756, 33757, 33758, 33764, 33766, 33767, 33770, 33771, 33773, 33774, 33775, 33777, 33778, 33779, 33780, 33781, 33784, 33785, 33786
 - c. Section 5: 33701, 33702, 33703, 33704, 33705, 33712, 33716, 33760, 33762, 33782
 - d. Section 6 33706, 33707, 33708, 33709, 33710, 33711, 33713, 33714, 33715, 33744, 33772, 33776
3. **New assignments:** Every juvenile delinquency case arising from a law enforcement complaint against a minor child, juvenile dependency case, termination of parental rights case (TPR) under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, action under Chapter 751, Florida Statutes, and action under Chapter 984, Florida Statutes shall be assigned to a UFC section according to the ZIP code of that minor child's most recent residential address. An adoption that emanates from a TPR case under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, shall be assigned to the UFC section where the juvenile dependency case is pending. An adoption that emanates from a TPR case under Chapter 63, Florida Statutes, shall be assigned to the UFC section where the TPR case is pending.
Previous assignments: If a minor child has been previously assigned to a section, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall assign any new juvenile delinquency, dependency, TPR case, case under Chapter 751, Florida Statutes, or case under Chapter 984, Florida Statutes according to the minor child's previously assigned section, even if the minor child has moved to a new residence with a new ZIP code.

4. The Clerk of the Circuit Court shall assign cases with an out of county ZIP code on an equal, at random, blind assignment basis among sections 1, 2, 5, and 6 unless there was a previous case assignment to a Section, in which case the Clerk of Court shall assign the case to the previously assigned Section.

5. The Clerk of the Circuit Court shall assign all co-defendants in a juvenile delinquency case to a UFC section according to their ZIP code as described in paragraph 2. However, should the court determine that it is necessary to reassign one or more co-defendants in order to ensure that all the co-defendants' cases are tried in one section, then the case shall be reassigned by the court.

6. If at any point, for judicial efficiency, it becomes necessary to transfer a case from one section to a different section, then the court on its own motion or on the motion of the state attorney, public defender, regional counsel, court appointed counsel, private counsel for the child, or counsel for the Guardian ad Litem, may request the Clerk's Office to assign all pending cases relating to the child to a single section. Notwithstanding Local Rule 3(B), the motion shall be filed in and heard by the judge of the section in which the older pending case(s) are assigned.

7. The Clerk of the Circuit Court shall continue to assign termination of parental rights cases under Chapter 63, Florida Statutes, and adoption cases under Chapter 63, Florida Statutes (excluding those adoption cases arising from a TPR under Chapter 39, Florida Statutes) on an equal, at random, blind assignment basis among Sections 1, 2, 5, and 6 without regard to the ZIP code.

8. The Clerk of the Circuit Court and the Pinellas County Business Technology Services Department shall take the steps needed to ensure that cases are assigned and reports generated in accordance with this Administrative Order.

9. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is directed to provide the UFC Administrative Judge with a report, which reflects the number of cases being assigned to each UFC section based upon the ZIP code lists. This report should specifically show how many cases are coming from each individual ZIP code listed in Paragraph 2 above. These reports should be provided to the UFC Administrative Judge on a monthly basis. The AOC shall be responsible for monitoring any significant shifts in the number of cases being assigned to the UFC sections. The AOC shall report to the UFC Administrative Judge any significant shifts in the number of cases being assigned to the judges assigned to UFC.

Administrative Orders 2009-005 PI-CIR and 2015-059 PI-CIR are hereby rescinded.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida this _____ day of February, 2018.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018
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
Ita M. Neymotin, Regional Counsel
Ngozi Acholonu, Assistant Regional Counsel
Gay L. Inskip, Trial Courts Administrator
Donna Rasmussen, Director, Guardian ad Litem Program
Debra Leiman, Family Court Manager, Unified Family Court
Bar Associations, Pasco and Pinellas Counties
Law Libraries, Pasco and Pinellas Counties