

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2022-028 PI-CTY

RE: PROCESSING OF SMALL CLAIMS CASES IN PINELLAS COUNTY COURT

In order to update and modify the pre-trial procedures for personal injury protection (“PIP”) cases in Pinellas County, Administrative Order 2014-005 must be amended. In accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution; Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215 and 2.525; section 43.26, Florida Statutes; and Sixth Judicial Circuit Local Rules,

IT IS ORDERED:

Simplified dissolution of marriage:

1. Simplified dissolution of marriage cases are to be assigned to Circuit Family Section 81N or 81S in accordance with Administrative Order 2022-025 and any subsequent administrative order.
2. The Clerk shall schedule a final hearing on the petition for simplified dissolution of marriage on a calendar before the county court at the next available session.
3. Judges assigned to county court civil sections shall preside over simplified dissolution of marriage cases on a mass calendar. The calendar will be held weekly unless otherwise provided by the County Administrative Judge. The schedule of assignments will be provided by separate Order of the County Administrative Judge.
4. Personnel from the Clerk’s Office shall attend simplified dissolution hearings and shall prepare all orders emanating from those cases for the Court’s signature.

Personal Injury Protection (PIP) cases & Windshield Litigation Cases:

5. In accordance with Florida Small Claims Rule 7.020, all rules of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedures shall apply to PIP and windshield litigation cases, including Fla. R. Civ. Proc. 1.420(e), Failure to Prosecute.
6. The Clerk will assign such cases to a county civil division pursuant to Administrative Order 2022-025 and any subsequent administrative order.
7. The Clerk will not set these cases for an initial pre-trial conference date. Instead the plaintiff shall issue a summons in accordance with Form 1.902 of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

Small claims except PIP & Windshield Litigation Cases:

8. The Clerk shall calendar small claims cases assigned to St. Petersburg on the South County Small Claims Master Calendar for a pre-trial conference.

9. The Clerk shall calendar small claims cases assigned to Clearwater to the North County Small Claims Master Calendar for a pre-trial conference.

County civil and small claims:

10. When a claim or counter claim exceeds the jurisdictional amount of county court, the county judge is to transfer the county civil or small claims case to circuit civil section 91N or 91S. The case remains assigned to the transferring county court judge who will hear the case as an acting circuit court judge.

Administrative Order 2014-005 is hereby rescinded.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, this
_____ day of June, 2022.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON JUNE 15, 2022
BY ANTHONY RONDOLINO, CHIEF JUDGE

cc: All Pinellas Judges
The Honorable Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney
The Honorable Sara Mollo, 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
Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Director, Pinellas County Clerk's Office
Bar Associations, Pasco and Pinellas Counties
Law Libraries, Pasco and Pinellas Counties