

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
EIGHTEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF  
FLORIDA

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:**  
**19-24**

**IN RE: DOMESTIC RELATIONS - ASSIGNMENT OF CASES INVOLVING THE HAGUE  
CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION**

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The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (“Hague Convention”) is a mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained from the child’s country of habitual residence. The Hague Convention is not an extradition remedy, but is a civil remedy for abduction.

In 1988, the United States codified the terms of the Hague Convention in 42 U.S.C. § 11601, which is known as the International Child Abduction Remedies Act. In 2002, the Florida Legislature recognized the Hague Convention and enacted sections 61.524 and 61.525, Florida Statutes.

On April 12, 2019, the Florida Supreme Court published Administrative Order AOSC19-19 which requires the chief judge of each judicial circuit to designate a judge with primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases filed within the circuit.

The Honorable Jennifer Taylor currently serves as the Family Law Administrative Judge for the 18<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Florida, which includes Brevard and Seminole Counties. The Honorable Christina Serrano currently serves as a Circuit Family Court Judge in Brevard County, Florida

To create a unified process of how Hague Convention cases are handled, and to fulfill the requirements set forth by the Supreme Court of Florida, and in accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution, Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, it is

ORDERED:

1. In conformity with AOSC 19-19, Judge Christina Serrano is hereby designated as the judge with primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases within the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.
2. Any judge in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida who receives a case or motion involving the Hague Convention, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, or any case relating to sections 61.524 and 61.525 of the Florida Statutes shall notify the Family Administrative Judge immediately.

3. After review of the case, filings, and motions, the Family Law Division Administrative Judge shall refer the matter to Judge Serrano who will further handle and hear all matters filed that pertain to the Hague Convention.
4. In the event that Judge Serrano is not available to handle a specific Hague Convention matter within the time constraints presented, the Family Law Division Administrative Judge, or his or her designee, shall rule on the matter until such time as Judge Serrano is able to address any other matter relating to sections 61.524 and 61.525, Florida Statutes.
5. No cases are to be reassigned based upon this Administrative Order. The case should only be transferred or reassigned in order to promote the efficient administration of justice.

DONE AND ORDERED this 23rd of May, 2019.

TONYA RAINWATER  
TONYA RAINWATER  
CHIEF JUDGE

Distribution:

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