

**IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2013-8**

**IN RE: FAMILY DIVISION/UNIFIED FAMILY COURT**

**WHEREAS**, the Second Judicial Circuit has adopted the recommendations of the Family Court Steering Committee in Administrative Order 2004-01 dated January 6, 2004, and agree that the continuing goal of the Family Division is to develop a fully integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases involving children and families;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Second Judicial Circuit is comprised of six counties of varying population, case-types, number of resident circuit judges, and other factors which must be considered in the implementation of a unified family division;

**WHEREAS**, the chief judge of the Second Judicial Circuit pursuant to Rule 2.050(b)(5), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, has appointed an Administrative Judge of the Family Division;

**WHEREAS**, a Unified Family Court Section was established in Administrative Order 2006-03, dated February 9, 2006;

**WHEREAS**, a Family Division was renewed in the Second Judicial Circuit pursuant to Administrative Order 2005-07, dated November 3, 2005, as amended, and the undersigned has determined that changes to the composition of the Family Law Division are necessary;

**WHEREAS**, in order to continue to meet and implement the requirements for a model family court, and to better serve the needs of the citizens of the State of Florida<sup>2</sup>, it is therefore

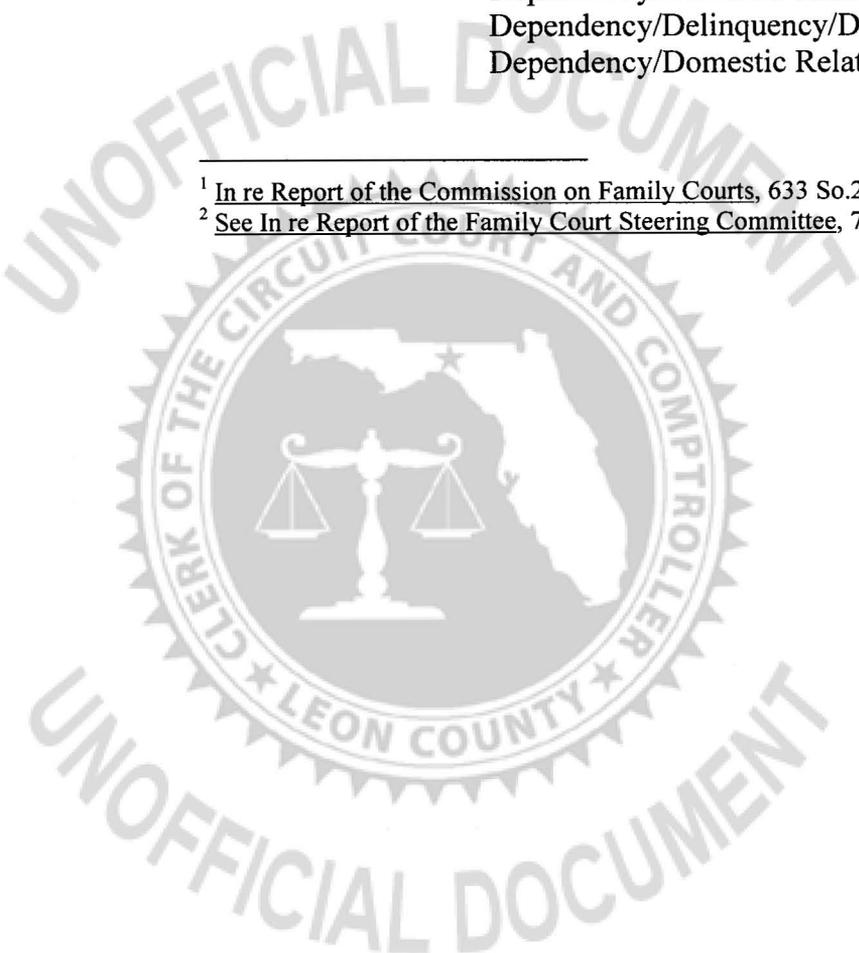
**ORDERED** that the following procedures are adopted effective immediately:

1. Cases assigned to the Unified Family Court docket include the following case type combinations:

- Dependency/Delinquency
- Dependency/Domestic Relations
- Dependency/Domestic Violence
- Dependency/Domestic Relations/Delinquency
- Dependency/Delinquency/Domestic Violence
- Dependency/Domestic Relations/Domestic Violence

<sup>1</sup> In re Report of the Commission on Family Courts, 633 So.2d 14, 17 (Fla. 1994).

<sup>2</sup> See In re Report of the Family Court Steering Committee, 794 So.2d 518,522 (Fla. 2001)



2. All related cases should be identified, initially, by the clerk of court and notification of related cases should be sent to the UFC case manager for review and recommendation of assigned to the UFC docket.
3. Pursuant to Fla. Fam. L. R. P. 12.100 the party opening or reopening a case shall file with the clerk of court Fla. Fam. L. R. P. Form 12.928 Cover Sheet which should reflect any and all related cases involving the family.
4. Stakeholders, the juvenile alternative sanctions coordinator, and case managers, in the family division should also provide notification to the UFC case manager upon knowledge of related cases when there is an open dependency case involving members of the same family.
5. Reassignment of cases to the UFC docket will be completed by the clerk of court upon e-mail notification from the UFC case manager. All parties to the cases will be included on the e-mail notification and the e-mail notification will contain the date and time of the UFC docket hearing.
6. Administrative Order 2006-03 dated February 9, 2006 is hereby terminated.

**DONE AND ORDERED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013.



Charles A. Francis  
CHIEF JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

All Circuit and County Judges, Second Judicial Circuit  
All Clerks of the Courts, Second Judicial Circuit  
All Sheriffs, Second Judicial Circuit  
General Magistrates and Hearing Officers, Second Judicial Circuit

