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CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

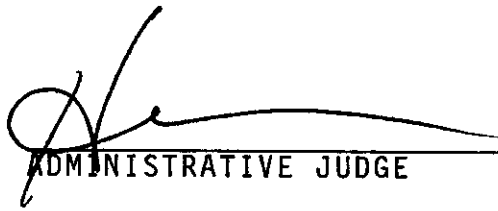
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN
AND FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 85-7

O R D E R

Administrative Order 85-6 is hereby rescinded and the letter of the Chief Judge dated November 19, 1985 is adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida this 19 day of November, 1985.


ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Attachment: Letter of November 19, 1985

Copies to:

Clerk of Circuit Court
Court Administrator
Joe Boyd, Esq.



OFFICE OF

DONALD O. HARTWELL

CIRCUIT JUDGE, SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COURTHOUSE BUILDING

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301

TELEPHONE
(904) 488-7063



November 19, 1985

Honorable Hal McClamma
County Judge
County Courthouse
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Hal:

Re: Leon County Court Administrative Order No. 85-6

This will confirm our discussions concerning the captioned order entered by you on November 18, 1986 [sic].

At the outset I wish to express to you that I am fully aware of the heavy docket of the County Court judges in Leon County. I also wish to express to you and the other members of the County Court my deep appreciation for the cooperation, good will, and sincerity of the County Judges in helping to dispose of the overwhelming caseload confronted by the judges of this county. As you know, there has been a steady and substantial increase in circuit and county court cases in recent years, and I frankly see no end in sight. Hopefully when we complete the computerization of the case filings, they will support that this county should be considered for an additional county judge.

With regard to the order concerning the number of child support cases to be heard and scheduled before the county judges, I have conferred with the Court Administrator's office and with Donna Wimberley of the Domestic Relations Department and have obtained statistics of the number of cases docketed and those in which there was no service or there was a purge prior to hearing, going back to August 1985. These statistics indicate that only once during this period of time did the cases ultimately heard exceed 30 and on one occasion were as few as 16. A study of the figures indicates that approximately 60% of the cases noticed washout prior to hearing, and on the average only 40% actually go to disposition.



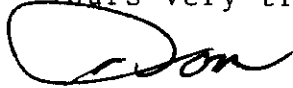
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I have conferred with Mrs. Wimberley and have suggested that as standard procedure she not send out more than 55 notices for hearings on any particular hearing date with the option to add 5 additional cases in emergency situations and that thus the docket would generally consist of 55 cases noticed but never in excess of 60. Based on these calculations, I would anticipate an average of hearings of 23 to 25 cases. Mrs. Wimberley indicates that she feels that with this limitation at least for the present she can keep the docket current.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Joe Boyd and request that he follow the same guidelines for the setting of HRS cases, with the understanding, however, that if he has any violent disagreement that he will contact me so that we may discuss ways to alleviate any special problems he may have.

I wish to assure you that I am aware of the underlying problem and that I have taken in the past and will continue to take in the future any steps available to me to alleviate any inequities which exist and will attempt to resolve any problem of any of the judges of this county or circuit.

Yours very truly,



DONALD O. HARTWELL
CHIEF JUDGE

CC: Mrs. Donna Wimberley
Mr. Joe Boyd
Mr. Dozier Allen

