

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER L: 2024-38

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF CIRCUIT COURT ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2025

This cause having come to the attention of the court as one which affects the efficient administration of justice within Lake County, and the court having the authority to enter administrative orders pertaining to the efficient administration of justice, and the court being otherwise duly advised, it is ORDERED:

1. Cases shall be randomly distributed as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Judge Baxley | 1/4 criminal cases, including "Jimmy Ryce" cases, excluding Death Penalty Cases
1/4 Death Penalty Cases
1/4 civil non-jury, excluding domestic relations cases, Including foreclosures
1/4 Probate |
| Judge Davis | 1/4 criminal cases, including "Jimmy Ryce" cases, excluding Death Penalty Cases
1/4 Death Penalty Cases
1/4 civil non-jury, excluding domestic relations cases Including foreclosures
1/4 Probate
Oversight on all child support cases heard by the Child Support Hearing Officer |
| Judge Welke | 1/4 criminal cases, including "Jimmy Ryce" cases, excluding Death Penalty Cases
1/4 Death Penalty Cases
1/4 civil non-jury, excluding domestic relations cases Including foreclosures
1/4 Probate
Veteran's Court |
| Judge Rada | 1/4 criminal cases, including "Jimmy Ryce" cases, excluding Death Penalty Cases
1/4 Death Penalty Cases |

1/4 civil non-jury, excluding domestic relations cases
Including foreclosures
1/4 Probate
All Criminal Miscellaneous Cases

Judge Mosley

2/3 civil jury cases, including eminent domain

Judge Nimeth

1/3 family cases, including non-Title IV D cases
All dependency
All juvenile delinquency, CINS/FINS & truancy intervention
Shelter hearings
Unified Family Court cases

Judge Takac

1/3 civil jury cases, including eminent domain
1/3 family cases, including non-Title IV D cases
and disputed paternity cases

Judge Helm

1/3 family cases, including non-Title IV D cases
and disputed paternity cases
All domestic violence injunctions
All guardianships
All mental health cases including those cases filed under
Chapter 393 (Developmental Disabilities), Chapter 790 (Risk
Protection Orders), and oversight of Chapter 394 Baker Act
Proceedings assigned and/or referred to the General
Magistrate.

Oversight on all child support cases heard by the child support hearing officer and the criminal miscellaneous docket shall rotate annually among the four criminal judges.

Cases filed in accordance with §945.43 (prisoner mental health) hearings shall be scheduled every Friday at 8:45 A.M. The outgoing duty judge will preside over these hearings. Should hearings fall on a holiday, they will instead be scheduled for the first preceding workday.

Circuit and county judges will continue to be responsible for shelter hearings on weekends and holidays during their duty weeks.

The Above Circuit Court Assignments are Effective January 1, 2025

General Magistrate:

Duties are assigned per separate administrative orders
(AO# L-2004-46-A and/or A-2020-08-D)

Child Support Hearing Officer: Duties are assigned per separate administrative orders (AO# A-2013-37-C and/or A-2020-08-D)

The following county court assignments shall be effective January 1, 2025

Judge Pepperman Child support not disposed by child support hearing officer.

2. Felony arraignments shall be scheduled Monday of each week at 8:30 A.M. Each judge shall schedule felony sentencings for his docket on the same Monday as his arraignment day. In the event Monday is a holiday, arraignment and sentencing shall be scheduled on the following work day. Each judge handling criminal shall make all possible efforts to schedule his primary criminal trial week on the Monday following his sentencing day so as to avoid conflicts.

3. In an effort to reduce juror costs, all jury selection shall occur on the first day of the work week unless circumstances beyond a judge's control require selection on a different day.

4. Death Penalty cases shall be rotated to the four judges assigned criminal dockets and eminent domain cases shall be rotated to the two judges assigned civil dockets. Judges who currently have post-conviction capital cases shall retain them.

8th DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Tavares, Lake County, Florida, this day of Sept. 2024.



JAMES BAXLEY
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
LAKE COUNTY