

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER O3-02

(Magistrate Judge reassignments)

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-114, 114 Stat. 2100 (2002) (hereinafter the “Family Court Act”) provides for the addition of nine additional magistrate judges to hear abuse and neglect cases and to transfer into the Family court all abuse and neglect cases pending before judges outside the Family Court; and

WHEREAS, the needs of the Family Court and the other divisions of the Superior Court require temporary reassignment of magistrate judges to ensure that all calendars to which they are assigned are fully covered; and

WHEREAS, the magistrate judges appointed pursuant to the Family Court Act of 2001 or otherwise assigned to hear only abuse and neglect cases are both legally and practically required to be available to hear abuse and neglect cases and not other matters; and

WHEREAS, the chair of the Mental Health Commission must be available to address an unpredictable case load resulting from the recently enacted requirement of new commitments annually; and

WHEREAS, from time to time it may be necessary to combine calendar assignments during temporary or unforeseen absences of magistrate judges,

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, all magistrate judges, other than those appointed pursuant to the Family Court Act of 2001 or assigned to hear only abuse and neglect cases or the chair of the Mental Health Commission, shall serve in arraignment and presentment court (C-10) for periods of one week in regular rotation to be scheduled by the Chief Judge in consultation with the Presiding Magistrate Judge; and it is further,

ORDERED, all magistrate judges other than those appointed pursuant to the Family Court Act or assigned to hear only abuse and neglect cases may be temporarily assigned to substitute for magistrate judges in any assignment, other than abuse and neglect, in any division, court or unit of the Superior Court, provided that only magistrate judges who meet the requirements of §6(a) of the Family Court Act may substitute for magistrate judges in the Family Court; and it is further,

ORDERED, magistrate judges assigned to the Mental Retardation Calendar, the three Paternity and Support Calendars, the Divorce and Domestic Relations Support Calendar and Civil Calendar 18, who are planning to be absent on leave, may clear their calendars, but should consult with the Presiding or Deputy Presiding Magistrate Judge before doing so, to provide an opportunity to make other arrangements for coverage; and it is further,

ORDERED, The Presiding or Deputy Presiding Magistrate Judge will consult with the relevant Presiding Judge before making any assignment pursuant to this Administrative Order; and it is further,

ORDERED, Magistrate judges assigned to abuse and neglect calendars who are planning to be absent on leave may clear their calendars but should arrange for coverage of emergencies by their team judge, or if he or she is unavailable, by another magistrate judge assigned to an abuse and neglect calendar, and should notify the Presiding Judge of the Family Court and the Presiding or Deputy Presiding Magistrate Judge of the arrangements made; and it is further,

ORDERED, magistrate judges who will be absent due to an unforeseen cause such as illness shall contact the Presiding or Deputy Presiding Magistrate Judge, who will then assist the Presiding or Deputy Presiding Judge of the relevant division in finding an emergency replacement; and it is further,

ORDERED, this order shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

January 13, 2003

/s/
Rufus King, III
Chief Judge

Copies to:

All Judges

Magistrate Judges

Executive Officer

Clerk of the Court

Division Directors

Director, CCAN Office

Director, Public Defender Service

Director, Youth Services Agency

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