

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PASCO AND PINELLAS COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2026-047 PA-CTY

RE: UNIFIED FAMILY COURT – PASCO COUNTY

Unified Family Court in Pasco County has been successfully utilized for many years. To continue to maintain efficient court operations in line with the “one family, one judge” concept, it has become necessary to clarify operations and assignment of cases in Unified Family Court in Pasco County. Therefore, in accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution, Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, it is

ORDERED:

1. Unified Family Court (UFC) will continue to be comprised of section UF in East Pasco County and section FC in West Pasco County.

2. New assignments:

- a. The Pasco County Clerk of Circuit Court (Clerk) will assign juvenile delinquency cases, juvenile dependency cases, and cases under chapters 984 and 751, Florida Statutes, in the normal course of business according to Administrative Orders 2016-030 and 2023-005, or subsequent Administrative Orders.
- b. An adoption that emanates from a TPR case under chapter 39, Florida Statutes, will be assigned to the UFC section where the juvenile dependency case is pending pursuant to Administrative Order 2023-005, or subsequent Administrative Order and the current Pasco Circuit Court Judicial Assignments Administrative Order.
- c. The Clerk will review each new family law and injunction case(s) for related family law cases and whenever possible assign to the same family law division judge for the family to remain with one judge.
- d. Nothing in this section prevents the assigned judge from later determining that a case should be transferred to another section due to significant case knowledge or judicial economy, provided such transfer or reassignment is agreed upon by the assigned judges or as determined by the Chief Judge in accordance with Local Rules.

3. Re-assignment to Unified Family Court:

- a. The Case Manager of UFC cases in Pasco County will identify and designate UFC cases in Pasco County as East Pasco County cases or as West Pasco County cases in accordance with this Administrative Order. Once identified and designated, the Case Manager will re-assign cases to the appropriate UFC section at the Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center in Dade City for East Pasco County cases, or to the West Pasco Judicial Center in New Port Richey for West Pasco County cases.

- b. The Case Manager will designate a UFC case as an East Pasco County case when the related dependency case is pending in East Pasco County. The Case Manager will designate a UFC case as a West Pasco County case when the related dependency case is pending in West Pasco County. The Pasco County Administrative Judge makes all final determinations regarding the assignment of a UFC case to either East Pasco County or West Pasco County.
4. **Case completion.** Upon entry of a final disposition in a UFC case, the UFC Case Manager will initiate the process for reassignment of the case to the division in which the case originated, when appropriate. Chapter 39 adoption cases will remain assigned to the UFC section to which they were originally assigned and will not be reassigned upon final disposition. Juvenile delinquency cases will remain assigned to the UFC division following final disposition. Such cases will be reassigned to the original section only upon the direction or request of the UFC Judge.
5. **Co-defendants.** The Case Manager will notify the delinquency court about the status of any related pending UFC case. Should the court determine that it is necessary to reassign one or more co-defendants to ensure that all the co-defendants' cases are tried in one section, then the case will be reassigned by the court.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida this 22nd day of October, 2026.

Original Signed by Shawn Crane, Chief Judge

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