

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 5.114-05/2022

IN RE: DIVISION FD GENERAL MAGISTRATE
PILOT PROGRAM

The Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, specifically Rule 12.490 and Rule 12.491 authorize the Chief Circuit Judge to appoint General Magistrates to preside over a myriad of family court matters. The interests of the public and of the litigants require a flexible, speedy and final resolution of these cases which is better served by the utilization of a General Magistrate system.

The Circuit is considering an expansion of its General Magistrate program by further authorizing General Magistrates to preside over some dissolution of marriage proceedings. The gradual closure of Family Division FD, as to be implemented by separate Administrative Order, presents an opportunity to pilot this expansion of the General Magistrates' role.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. General Magistrates are permitted by law to preside over dissolution of marriage matters when such matters are referred to the General Magistrate, without objection, pursuant to Florida Rule of Family Procedure 12.490.
2. The judge presiding over Division FD may refer uncontested, *pro se* dissolution of marriage matters to a General Magistrate for hearing.
3. All other provisions of Administrative Order 5.104 remain in effect, including the prohibition on referring certain matters to General Magistrates. Orders of Referral will be initially prepared by family court case managers and reviewed as set forth in Administrative Order 5.104.
4. The General Magistrate participating in this pilot program will be selected by the Chief Judge, in consultation with the Administrative Magistrate.
5. Hearings conducted by the assigned General Magistrate must take place either remotely via Zoom video conference or in-person at the Main Courthouse located at 205 North Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, at the discretion of the General Magistrate.

DONE and **SIGNED** in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this 31st day of May, 2022.



Glenn Kelley
Chief Judge