

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5.115- 8/23

IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF CASES INVOLVING THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE
CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

_____ :

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (“Hague Convention”) is a mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained from the child’s country of habitual residence. The Hague Convention is not an extradition remedy, but is a civil remedy for abduction.

In 1988, the United States codified the terms of the Hague Convention in 42 U.S.C. § 11601, which is known as the International Child Abduction Remedies Act. In 2002, the Florida Legislature recognized the Hague Convention and enacted sections 61.524 and 61.525, Florida Statutes.

On April 12, 2019, the Florida Supreme Court published Administrative Order AOSC19-19, which requires the chief judge of each judicial circuit to designate a judge with primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases filed within the circuit.

Uniform practices are necessary for handling Hague Convention cases filed within the circuit to fulfill the requirements set forth by the Supreme Court of Florida.

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

1. The judge currently serving as the Family Law Division Administrative Judge for Palm Beach County is hereby designated as the judge with primary responsibility for handling convention cases within the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.
2. Any judge who receives a case or motion involving the Hague Convention, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, or any case relating to sections 61.524 and 61.525 of the Florida Statutes shall notify the Family Law Division Administrative Judge immediately to review and handle.
3. In the event that the Family Law Division Administrative Judge is not available to handle a specific Hague Convention matter within the time constraints presented, his/her designee shall rule on the matter until such time as the Family Law Division Administrative Judge is able to address any other matter relating to sections 61.524 and 61.525, Florida Statutes.

4. If the case identified with Hague Convention issues has related cases, the Judge who is handling the case shall be notified of the related cases to avoid conflicting orders.
5. No cases are to be reassigned based upon this Administrative Order. The case should only be transferred or reassigned in order to promote the efficient administration of justice.

DONE and SIGNED in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this 23rd day of August 2023.



Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge