

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, INDIAN RIVER AND OKEECHOBEE COUNTIES

IN RE:

FAMILY HEARING OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 94-11

WHEREAS, many matters involving child support, alimony, and maintenance are brought before the Family Division of the Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, the interests of the public and of the litigants require a flexible and speedy resolution of such matters; and

WHEREAS, the Family Division has demonstrated a need for assistance from family hearing officers to comply with the time limitations by conducting proceedings for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of support pursuant to Rule 1.491, Fla. R. Civ. P.; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Rule 1.491, Fla. R. Civ. P., have been invoked in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit by Administrative Order of the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, dated November 16, 1994; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain a record of proceedings conducted before the family hearing officers, and electronic reporting has proved to be a reliable and inexpensive method for maintaining a record;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Acting Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida and pursuant to Rules 2.050(b)(2) and 2.070(c)(1), Fla. R. Jud. Admin., and Rule 1.491, Fla. R. Civ. P., it is;

ORDERED as follows:

1. The Office of Family Hearing Officer of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida is hereby established. Family hearing officers shall be appointed by, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Judge and a majority of Circuit Judges in the Circuit.

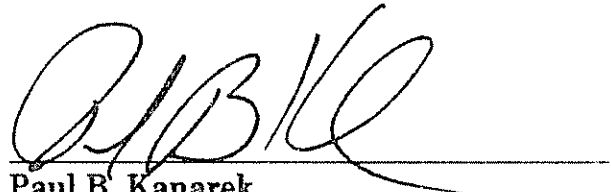
2. The family hearing officers shall be empowered to conduct proceedings and make findings of fact and recommendations of law pursuant to Rule 1.491(e), Fla. R. Civ. P..

3. Family hearing officers shall discharge their duties under the direction of the administrative judge of the Family Division of the Court.

4. All proceedings for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of support wherein the party seeking support is receiving services pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act; all non-Title IV-D proceedings for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of support, in which the Department of Revenue represents the moving party; and all voluntary acknowledgment of paternity and support cases shall be scheduled before a family hearing officer pursuant to Rule 1.491, Fla. R. Civ. P..

5. All proceedings before the family officers shall be electronically reported. The electronic reporting of these cases shall be done in conformance with this Court's Administrative Orders dealing with electronic reporting of proceedings.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida, this 12th day of December, 1994.



Paul B. Kanarek
Acting Chief Judge

cc: All Circuit and County Judges
All Clerks of Court
All Local Bar Associations within this Circuit
Court Administrator

Supreme Court of Florida

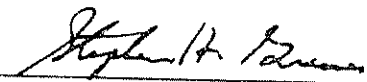
IN RE: SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT HEARING OFFICERS,
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit requests authority to utilize the provisions of rule 1.491 of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure to hear child support enforcement proceedings.


Now, therefore, I, Stephen H. Grimes, under the authority vested in me as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida and pursuant to rule 1.491(b) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, hereby order that hearing officers may be utilized in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit to consider proceedings for establishment, enforcement, or modification of child support both in those cases in which the party seeking support is receiving services pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and in non-Title IV-D proceedings.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 16th day of November, 1994.



STEPHEN H. GRIMES
Chief Justice

ATTEST:



SID J. WHITE
Clerk

