

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

A D M I N I S T R A T I V E O R D E R 94-7

IN RE: NINETEENTH CIRCUIT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

Mediation of Domestic Relation and General Civil cases has proven to be an efficient case management tool. However a substantial number of Domestic Relation cases and a small number of General Civil cases involve indigents who cannot afford mediation. Mediation has also proven very successful in other Circuits for settling County Small Claims cases, yet our Circuit has no such program.

Therefore, as Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit and pursuant to Rule 2.050 of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration and pursuant to Local Ordinances concerning the distribution of Mediation Trust Fund monies, I am ordering the following.

1) This Administrative Order establishes the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Dispute Resolution Program.

2) This program will be administered by the Court Administrator's Office.

3) The Dispute Resolution Program shall be divided into a Circuit Civil and Domestic Relations Indigency Mediation Program and a Small Claims Volunteer Mediation Program. Both programs shall be directed by one Administrative Assistant supervised by the Court Administrator and whose duties shall include, but not be limited too, the following:

a) Assignment of Florida Supreme Court Certified Civil and Family Mediators to Circuit Civil and Circuit Domestic Relations indigency cases by a rotation list of Mediators.

b) Establish a list of Certified Civil and Family Mediators willing to mediate cases at a reduced rate which will be established by Administrative Order.

c) Recruit, secure state-training, supervise and assign volunteers to perform small claims mediation in all four (4) County Courts of the Circuit.

d) Account to the Court Administrator and Chief Judge funds expended on Mediation.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 94-7

RE: NINETEENTH CIRCUIT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

4) Martin, Okeechobee and Indian River Counties shall calculate the net amount of funds on hand within the Domestic Relations Trust Fund and Small Claims Mediation Trust Fund as of August 1, 1994. Fifty per cent (50%) of the net amount shall be remitted to Saint Lucie County, c/o Management and Budget Office, on or before September 1, 1993. Saint Lucie County shall calculate the net amount of funds on hand within the Domestic Relations Trust Fund and Small Claims Mediation Trust Fund as of August 1, 1994. Fifty per cent (50%) of the net amount shall be transferred to the Court Administrator's Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Fund. The funds received from the Counties within the Circuit will be accounted for in such a manner that the County Court and Circuit Court receipts can be identified.

5) The Court Administrator and the Budget Officer of Saint Lucie County shall periodically review the revenues and expenditures of the program. When funds are required to continue the program, the Budget Officers shall be requested to submit a balance of funds on hand to the Court Administrator. Upon receipt of the requested information, the Court Administrator shall prepare a balanced budget using the funds available including payment for Court-Ordered indigence mediation of Circuit Civil and Domestic Relations cases in any of the Court of the Circuit. The Chief Judge shall then order each County to forward the appropriate amounts to cover the budget to Saint Lucie County. The Court Administrator shall submit an annual report including data concerning, but not limited to, a number of mediations and arbitrations in County Court, Circuit Court, County of residence, etcetera.

6) In order to insure the continuity of these programs and to provide additional funds to finance the programs. The attached sliding scale rates are to be used to determine the amount of each party shall pay at the time of the Mediation. The Mediator shall submit the check or Money Order with his or her bill. There shall be no fee for Small Claims Court Mediation.

DONE AND ORDERED at Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida
this 29 day of August, 1994.


CHIEF JUDGE L.B. VOELLE
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

INDIGENCY BASED PROGRAM

GROSS ANNUAL INCOME OF FAMILY	AMOUNT PAID BY EACH PARTY PER SESSION
BELOW \$10,000.00	\$10.00
\$10,000.00 - \$15,000.00	\$15.00
\$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00	\$20.00
\$20,000.00 - \$25,000.00	\$30.00

Each party shall pay the required fee by check or money order made out to: NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MEDIATION FUND.