

**THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. 20-2
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 20-41**

**IN RE: GENERAL ASSIGNMENT OF
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES TO
TEMPORARILY SERVE AS ACTING
COUNTY COURT JUDGES.**

WHEREAS, it is necessary, from time to time, for the prompt dispatch of the business of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, that Circuit Court Judges be temporarily assigned to hear and determine matters of the County Court; and

WHEREAS, Rule 2.215(b)(3) of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration places responsibility upon the Chief Judge to develop an administrative plan for the efficient and proper administration of all courts within the circuit, including an administrative organization capable of effecting the prompt disposition of cases;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, under Rule 2.215 of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, I hereby authorize and designate all Circuit Court Judges of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit to serve temporarily as Acting County Court Judges of Miami-Dade County, under the following terms and conditions:

1. **CRIMINAL DIVISION**

The Circuit Court Judges in the Criminal Division are authorized to hear and dispose of all cases originally filed or transferred to their respective divisions, including those cases that are subsequently reduced to misdemeanors by the filing of a "bind-down to county court" Information. However, such authorization shall not extend to the final disposition of misdemeanor or traffic bench warrants and "bind-down" Information in traffic and domestic violence cases, in light of the unique administrative and clerical procedures entailed in such cases. Only consideration of release conditions and/or bond reductions shall be given to "bind-down" traffic and domestic violence cases, as well as traffic or misdemeanor bench warrant cases.

2. CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION

The Circuit Court Judges in the Circuit Civil Division are authorized to hear and dispose of those cases originally filed in or transferred to their respective divisions that are subsequently reduced in jurisdictional amounts or criteria to County Court matters.

3. FAMILY AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

The Circuit Court Judges in the Family and Juvenile Divisions are authorized to hear and dispose of those domestic violence or other matters that are transferred or assigned to their respective divisions in accordance with the terms of Administrative Order 03-15: In Re: Reaffirmation of Unified Family Court Plan, Establishment of Complex Litigation Division, Establishment of Procedures for Implementing and Evaluating Unified Family Court in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida.

4. DISCRETION

The above authorization shall be exercised at the discretion of the Circuit Court Judges and shall be concurrent with the jurisdiction of the County Court Judges who would otherwise regularly be assigned to hear those County Court matters.

5. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION

In addition to the specific matters listed above, I hereby designate all Circuit Court Judges, including those Circuit Court Judges that may be appointed or elected during the time that this Administrative Order is in existence, to temporarily serve as Acting County Court Judges to hear, try, conduct, and determine those cases or matters assigned to them by the Administrative or Associate Administrative Judges of the various divisions of the County Court, and to thereafter dispose of all those matters considered by them during said period.

When an Administrative or Associate Administrative Judge assigns a County case or matter to a Circuit Court Judge, the Administrative or Associate Administrative Judge should enter an order in the case notifying the parties of such assignment. The failure to file such an order, however, shall not affect the authority or jurisdiction of the Circuit Court Judge to hear, try, conduct, and determine the County case or matter assigned.

All Judges will also continue to serve as Circuit Court Judges of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit and accept such other assignments as directed

by the Administrative or Associate Administrative Judge of the divisions to which they are regularly assigned.

Circuit Court Judges, under and by virtue of the authority hereof, are hereby vested with all and singular powers conferred by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of Florida upon a Judge of the Circuit and County Courts to which they are hereby assigned.

This Administrative Order shall be effective January 1, 2021 through and inclusive of June 30, 2021.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 10TH day of December 2020.

**BERTILA SOTO, CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**