

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

**CASE NO. 26-1
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 26-12
(Rescinding AO No. 24-10)**

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, Section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the Chief Judge of each Judicial Circuit is charged with the authority and the power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the Chief Judge “shall, considering available resources, ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within that circuit;” and

WHEREAS, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (“Hague Convention”) is a mechanism available for parents who seek 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; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Congress enacted the International Child Abduction Remedies Act to implement the Convention in the United States, and Florida law recognizes the Convention in sections 61.524-61.525, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, uniform practices for handling Hague Convention cases filed within this Circuit are necessary to fulfil the requirements set forth by the Supreme Court of Florida.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me, as Chief Judge, and pursuant to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

1. Administrative Judge of the Family Division Samantha Ruiz Cohen is designated as the Judge with primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases within the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.
2. A judge in this Circuit receiving a case or motion involving The Hague Convention, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, or any case relating to section 61.525, Florida Statutes, shall notify Family Court Division Administrative Judge Samantha Ruiz Cohen immediately to hear and rule on the case or matter.
3. In the event the Family Hague Convention case is transferred to the Unified Family Court Division as a component of a related case matter, Unified Family Court Division Associate Administrative Judge Scott M. Bernstein, is designated to preside over these matters.
4. Unified Family Court Division Associate Administrative Judge Scott M. Bernstein, is also designated as the Alternate Judge to Administrative Judge of the Family Division, Samantha Ruiz-Cohen, solely with respect to Judge Samantha Ruiz-Cohen having primary responsibility for handling Hague Convention cases within the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, as may be needed.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida on this 6th day of April 2026.

**ARIANA FAJARDO ORSHAN, CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**