

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

**CASE NO. 17-1
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 17-06**

**IN RE: DISASTER AND EMERGENCY
PROCEDURES IN DEPENDENCY
MATTERS**

WHEREAS, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit recognizes the need to adopt disaster and emergency procedures to address the placement of all children under the supervision of the Department of Children and Families, whether in out-of-home care (licensed foster care, relative care, non-relative care) or in-home care with a parent;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, under Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the following procedures shall be in place:

1. Whenever a disaster or state of emergency is declared in the State of Florida, the Department of Children and Families ("the Department") and/or the community-based care provider agency that contracts or sub-contracts with the Department to provide case management and/or placement services ("the Provider") is authorized to allow children under the Department's supervision to travel to a safe and temporary location, including out of county and/or out of state, without a court order. This temporary relocation is approved for a period not exceeding ten (10) days.
2. At all times, the Department and/or the Provider shall maintain responsibility for all children who are relocated pursuant to this Administrative Order. The Department and/or the Provider shall obtain details regarding the planned relocation of all children in its care no later than 72 hours after the caregiver and child(ren) have relocated to a safe location. Such details shall include, but are not limited to, the address and best contact information where the child(ren) and caregiver(s) may be reached during the temporary relocation period.
3. The Department/Provider shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that regular contact is made with the caregiver(s) to report on the location of the children and their families. Upon the expiration of the ten (10) day relocation period, the Department must notify the presiding judge, via a

written status report, of the location and well-being of any child(ren) relocated pursuant to this Order.

4. All children shall be returned to their original placement as soon as it is determined that it is safe and suitable. A hearing shall be scheduled before the presiding judge as soon as the emergency situation abates to report on the location of any children who have not been returned to their original placement at the end of the ten (10) day period.

This Administrative Order shall become effective immediately upon execution and shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida, on September 6th 2017.

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