

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HARDEE, HIGHLANDS AND POLK COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 3-12.0

ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF MEDIATOR

WHEREAS the Florida Supreme Court has substantially amended Rule 1.700 of the Rules of Civil Procedure, effective July 1, 1990, and,

WHEREAS Rule 1.720 (f) addresses the appointment of a mediator if the parties cannot agree upon a mediator within ten (10) days of the Order of Referral to Mediation, and

WHEREAS Rule 1.720 (f) (2) requires the Court to appoint a certified mediator selected by rotation, unless other procedures are adopted by Administrative Order of the Chief Judge of the Circuit, and

WHEREAS the court believes that in those cases in which a mediator cannot be agreed upon by the parties that the presiding judge should be vested with the authority to select the mediator of his choice instead of the next mediator on a rotation list, many of whom come from outside the Circuit and are virtually unknown to the Court and the parties and whose skills as a mediator have gone untested in the Circuit, now therefore, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Judges of the Tenth Judicial Circuit may appoint any certified Circuit Court mediator to any case referred to mediation in which the parties cannot agree upon a mediator.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Bartow, Polk County, Florida this 2nd day of April, 1991.

OLIVER L. GREEN, JR.

CHIEF JUDGE

