

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5-29.1**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE FILING PROCEDURES**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 61, Florida Statutes, provides that dissolution, support, and custody proceedings under Chapter 61, Florida Statutes, are in chancery and are civil in nature, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 61.13, Florida Statutes, provides for a permanent modifiable award of child support pursuant to the guidelines in 61.30 and continuing jurisdiction to the court which initially enters the child support order, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 741.2901, Florida Statutes, provides that domestic violence be treated as a criminal act and not a private matter, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 741.30(6)(a), Florida Statutes, provides for temporary child support and temporary visitation with a minor child as the court deems proper in conjunction with issuance of an injunction for protection, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 741.30, Florida Statutes, provides that if a subsequent cause of action is filed under Chapter 61, any orders entered therein shall take precedence over any inconsistent provisions of an injunction issued under sections 741.28-741.31, Florida Statutes, which addresses matters addressed by Chapter 61, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 741.30(6)(b), Florida Statutes, provides that the relief granted by an injunction for protection of a victim of domestic violence remain in effect until modified or dissolved, unless a specific period of time is ordered by the court, and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Clerk of the Courts to maintain separate case files for domestic relations matters and domestic violence for statistical and time standard purposes in accordance with Rules 2.245 and 2.250, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, and

**WHEREAS**, the judges of the Family Law Division of the Tenth Judicial Circuit recognize it is necessary to clarify filing procedures in domestic violence and domestic relations causes of action and enact uniform policies and procedures for filing cases in the Family Law Division, and

**WHEREAS**, the judges of the Family Law Division of the Tenth Judicial Circuit have created the policies and procedures provided for in this Administrative Order for the purpose of setting forth standardized policies and procedures under which the Family Law Division and the Clerk of the Courts are to operate, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Court that said policies and procedures shall be implemented by the Clerk of the Courts of the Tenth Judicial Circuit forthwith.

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is hereby,

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that domestic violence causes of action shall not be consolidated with any other domestic relations matter including but not limited to dissolution, adoption, separate maintenance, or paternity causes of action nor shall any other domestic relations actions be filed in the domestic violence case. Accordingly, the Clerk of the Courts shall maintain each domestic violence case file as separate and identifiable cause of action.

Administrative Order No. 5-29.0 is revoked and superseded by this order.

DONE and ORDERED on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2010.

J. DAVID LANGFORD  
Chief Judge