

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 3-45.0

IN RE: CREATION OF POLK COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS AND EVICTIONS DIVISION M1

WHEREAS, the number of small claims cases filed in Polk County, Florida, has increased to the point that a new small claims division is necessary to assist with the judicial workload; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote judicial economy, maximize judicial resources, and provide for the prompt and efficient administration of justice in this circuit, it is necessary to create Division M1 and reassign cases from the existing small claims division (M2) to Division M1; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with article V, section 2, Florida Constitution; section 43.26, Florida Statutes; and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215; and

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ORDERED that:

1. CREATION: Division M1 is created effective October 1, 2026.
2. REASSIGNMENT OF CASES:
 - a. On October 2, 2026, the Polk County Clerk of the Court (hereinafter "Clerk") shall reassign 50 percent of the open, reopened, and closed cases from Division M2 to Division M1.
 - b. On November 1, 2026, the Clerk shall reassign (as equally as possible) the eviction cases from Division M8 to Division M1 and M2.
3. NEW CASES:
 - a. The Clerk will begin assigning new small claims cases to Division M1 on October 5, 2026.
 - b. The Clerk will begin assigning new eviction cases to Divisions M1 and M2 on November 1, 2026.

4. HEARINGS AND TRIALS: If a reassigned case has a hearing or trial scheduled to take place after entry of this Order, the hearing or trial will be presided over by the judge covering the M1 docket. If there is a conflict, the matter will be reset by the judge covering the docket.
5. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Administrative Order is effective upon signing.

DONE AND ORDERED on this 1st day of October, 2026.

s/JAMES A. YANCEY, Chief Judge

Copies:
All Judges
Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Trial Court Administrator
Electronic Bar Mailing