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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR MANATEE, SARASOTA AND DESOTO COUNTIES

Administrative Order: 89-08

IN RE: SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT  
HEARING OFFICERS,  
MANATEE, SARASOTA AND  
DESOTO COUNTIES.

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER WAS  
RENUMBERED BY ADMINISTRATIVE  
ORDER NUMBER 2001-14-2.  
THE NEW NUMBER IS  
89-08-12

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
(January 23, 1989)

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida has adopted<sup>^</sup>  
Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.491 relating to Child Support Enforcement Hearing  
Officers; and

WHEREAS, this Court has entered an Administrative Order,  
ACC-86-06, dated November 20, 1986, and Amended ACC-86-06, dated  
December 4, 1986, and Amended ACC-86-06 dated April 5, 1988, and  
an Amended Order 88-65, dated December 15, 1988, the Amended  
Order of November and December, 1986, are substantially the same  
as the April 5, 1988 Order, and the December 15, 1988 Order. The  
Supreme Court of Florida, on January 19, 1989, invalidated Order  
ACC-86-06, dated April 5, 1988; and

WHEREAS, the interest of the public, the litigants and the  
judiciary require a flexible and speedy system for resolution of  
proceedings for establishment, modification and enforcement of  
support in both Title IV-D and Non-Title IV-D cases, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida has entered an  
Administrative Order invoking the provisions of Fla.R.Civ.P.  
1.491 for both Title IV-D and Non-Title IV-D proceedings in the  
Twelfth Judicial Circuit; it is

ORDERED, as follows:

1. There is hereby created the position of Support  
Enforcement Hearing Officers. The Chief Judge shall appoint one  
or more hearing officers who shall be members of the Florida Bar  
in good standing and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief  
Judge and a majority of the Circuit Judges of the Circuit.
2. All proceedings for the establishment, modification and  
enforcement of support in both Title IV-D and Non-Title IV-D  
cases shall be heard by the Support Enforcement Hearing Officer.
3. The Support Enforcement Hearing Officer shall have the

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general powers and duties set forth in Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.491(e), and shall perform such other and related functions as the Chief Judge may from time to time direct concerning the establishment, modification, or enforcement of support.

4. The Support Enforcement Hearing Officer shall promptly make and enter a Recommended Order in each case. The Recommended Order shall contain findings of fact and shall have the same force and effect as an order entered by the Court when approved and ratified by a Circuit Judge. The Circuit Judge shall review the findings of fact and the Recommended Order, and enter the same promptly unless good cause appears to amend the order or conduct further proceedings.

5. All hearings before the Hearing Officers shall be reported by electronic means provided by Fla.R.Jud.Admin. 2.070(c).

6. The Amended Administrative Order shall take effect the 20th day of January, 1989.

DONE and ORDERED at Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida, this 23rd day of January, 1989, nunc pro tunc the 20th day of January, 1989.

Gilbert A. Smith  
GILBERT A. SMITH  
CHIEF JUDGE  
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ATTEST:

R.B. SHORE  
Clerk of the Twelfth Judicial  
Circuit, Count of Manatee,  
Florida

By: Debra J. Higgins  
Deputy Clerk

RECEIVED  
JAN 24 1989  
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF MANATEE  
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and  
correct copy of the documents filed in my office.  
Witness my hand and official seal this 24th day of  
January 1989.  
R. B. Shore  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
By: Paul A. Hill D.C.

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OR BOOK

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR MANATEE, SARASOTA, AND DESOTO COUNTIES

Administrative Order: ACC-86-06

IN RE: SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT  
HEARING OFFICERS,  
MANATEE, SARASOTA AND  
DESOTO COUNTIES

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida has adopted Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.491 relating to Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officers; and

WHEREAS, all proceedings involving establishment, modification, and enforcement of support, maintenance and spousal support arrearages and the determination of paternity are brought before the Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, the interests of the public, the litigants and the judiciary require a flexible and speedy system for resolution of proceedings involving establishment, modification, and enforcement of support, maintenance and spousal support arrearages and the determination of paternity; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida has entered an Administrative Order invoking the provisions of Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.491 for both Title IV-D and non IV-D proceedings in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit; it is

ORDERED, as follows:

1. There is hereby created the position of Support Enforcement Hearing Officers. The Chief Judge shall appoint one or more Hearing Officers who shall be members of the Florida Bar in good standing and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Judge and a majority of the Circuit Judges of the Circuit. The Hearing Officers shall serve under the direction of the Chief Judge as the Court's representative in all proceedings involving establishment, modification and enforcement of support, maintenance and spousal support obligations and proceedings for the determination of paternity.

2. All proceedings for the determination of paternity and/or for the establishment, modification and enforcement of support, maintenance and spousal support in both Title IV-D and non IV-D cases shall be heard by the Support Enforcement Hearing Officer.

3. In addition to the general powers and duties set forth in Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.491(e), the Hearing Officers shall have the following powers and duties:

a. To hear and determine contested Income Deduction Orders and enter appropriate orders in accordance with Section 61.1301(5), Florida Statutes;

b. To conduct all hearings involving the determination of paternity and/or the establishment, modification or enforcement of support, maintenance and spousal support obligations and enter appropriate orders in such cases;

c. To conduct all hearings requesting temporary support, maintenance, spousal support and attorney fees and suit monies and enter appropriate orders in such cases;

d. To take testimony and establish a record at hearings;

e. To accept voluntary acknowledgements of paternity, support, maintenance and spousal support obligations and enter stipulated orders determining paternity and/or setting the amount of support, maintenance or spousal support to be paid;

f. To prepare and enter default orders if the obligor does not respond as required by law;

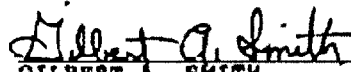
g. To perform such other and related functions as the Chief Judge may from time to time direct concerning the determination of paternity, and/or enforcement of support, maintenance and spousal support obligations.

4. The Support Enforcement Hearing Officer shall promptly make and enter a Recommended Order in each case. The Recommended Order shall contain findings of fact and shall have the same force and effect as an order entered by the Court when approved and ratified by a Circuit Judge. The Circuit Judge shall enter the recommended order promptly unless good cause appears to amend the order or conduct further proceedings.

5. All hearings before the Hearing Officers shall be reported by electronic means as provided by Fla.R.Jud.Admin., 2.070(c).

6. This Amended Administrative Order shall take effect 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1988.

THIS DONE AND ORDERED at Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida,  
this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1988.

  
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GILBERT A. SMITH  
CHIEF JUDGE  
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT