

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

Administrative Order 99- 19 THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER WAS  
RENUMBERED BY ADMINISTRATIVE  
ORDER NUMBER 2001-14-2.  
THE NEW NUMBER IS  
99-19-12

In re: SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT HEARING OFFICERS  
(vacating Administrative Order 89-08)

In Rule 12.491, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, the Supreme Court of Florida set forth the governing procedures for child support enforcement hearings. It was determined by the court that adoption of these procedures would benefit the public, the litigants, and the judiciary. This rule provides for the appointment of support enforcement hearings officers, and sets forth the scope of these hearings as follows:

**(b) Scope.** This rule shall apply to proceedings for  
(1) the establishment, enforcement, or modification of child support, or  
(2) the enforcement of any support order for the custodial parent in conjunction with an ongoing child support or child support arrearage order, when a party seeking support is receiving services pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 651 et seq.) and to non-Title IV-D proceedings upon administrative order of the chief justice.

As set forth in the above-cited section, the Supreme Court of Florida has entered an administrative order invoking the provisions of this rule for both Title IV-D and non-Title IV-D proceedings in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. Accordingly, there is hereby created the position of Support Enforcement Hearing Officer. The chief judge shall appoint such number of support enforcement hearing officers as are necessary to perform the prescribed duties. All hearing officers shall meet the requirements set forth in Rule 12.491, and shall serve at the pleasure of the chief judge and a majority of the circuit judges in the circuit.

Until construed otherwise by a court of higher authority, this court finds contempt hearings to be within the scope of enforcement proceedings as set out in subsection(b) of Rule 12.491. All enforcement proceedings conducted by a Support Enforcement Hearing Officer shall be governed by the provisions set forth in this rule.

All hearings before a Support Enforcement Hearing Officer shall be reported by electronic means as provided in Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.070(d).

DONE in chambers at Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
of September, 1999.

  
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THOMAS M. GALLEN, Chief Judge

Original to: Clerk of Court, Sarasota County

Copies to: Clerk of Court, Manatee County  
Clerk of Court, DeSoto County  
Court Administration