

THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 00-1
(Court Administration)

IN RE: PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL)
INTEREST/HIGH VISIBILITY)
PROCEEDINGS AT COURTHOUSE)
CENTER)
_____)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 00-05

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida, in Rule 2.170, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, has promulgated standards of conduct and technology for electronic media and still photography coverage of public judicial proceedings; and

WHEREAS, any media coverage of public judicial proceedings is subject at all times to the authority of the presiding judge to: (i) control the conduct of proceedings before the court; (ii) ensure decorum and prevent distractions; and (iii) ensure the fair administration of justice in the pending cause; and

WHEREAS, special interest/high visibility proceedings require procedures and special accommodations to ensure full access without compromising the right of any litigant to a fair and orderly trial;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, I hereby establish the following procedures to be implemented for special interest/high profile proceedings scheduled to be heard at COURTHOUSE CENTER, located at 175 NW 1st Avenue:

1. At the request of the trial judge assigned to preside over a proceeding of great public interest, with the concurrence of the Chief Judge or his designee, the Court Press Officer shall implement the procedures set forth within this Administrative Order.
2. Upon implementation of this Order, the Court Press Officer shall as soon as practicable convene a meeting of interested media representatives for the purpose of establishing a media committee which will establish media protocols for this specific case. The Court Press Officer will continue to act as liaison between the court and the media for the duration of the case.
3. The media committee shall consist of at least one representative from the video, audio and print media, as well as the Court Press Officer, the Court Operations Director, and the Administrative Judge or his designee. Other media representatives may also be included when necessary.
4. Among the duties of the media committee shall include: designating pool coverage and camera locations in accordance with Rule 2.170(b)(4), Fla. R. Jud. Adm.; recommending to the administrative judge suitable interview and press conference areas; assisting with the allocation of court-issued press credentials and courtroom seating assignments; overseeing the dissemination of information and providing a clearinghouse for media/court issues arising during the case; equipping the media room(s);

working with the court to accommodate other special needs of the media; and setting up a final meeting of media personnel a few days prior to the proceeding to explain procedures and instructions.

5. A media room will be designated within close proximity to the special interest proceeding. The media room, under the supervision of the Court Press Officer, will be open during normal working hours to all media representatives with court-issued credentials. The room will accommodate monitors and other equipment provided by the media committee to permit coverage of the proceedings by media representatives who are unable to obtain seating in the courtroom.
6. So as not to interfere with court proceedings or with a litigant or interested party's rights, no interviews are permitted within or immediately outside the courtroom at any time. Media personnel shall ensure that no hallways, exits or emergency exits are blocked by media equipment and/or media personnel. Due to public access issues and life safety concerns, any interviews to be conducted immediately outside the Courthouse Center building shall be held in the areas designated for that purpose.
7. This Order incorporates by reference the "Eleventh Judicial Circuit's Media Relations and Public Access Plan" drafted by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Administrative Judges of the Family Division in March 2000, and any subsequent amendments to said Plan.

This Order shall be effective immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida, this _____ day of March, 2000.

JOSEPH P. FARINA, CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA