

LOCAL RULE FOR FAMILY DIVISION

ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES REQUIRING PRO SE PARTIES IN THE FAMILY DIVISION OF THE CIRCUIT COURTS TO ACQUIRE AND UTILIZE THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FORMS PACKET AND TO COORDINATE THEIR PLEADINGS AND PAPERS WITH FAMILY COURT SELF HELP PROGRAM AT THE TIME OF FILING CASE AND PRIOR TO OBTAINING A FINAL HEARING DATE.

Pro Se parties in dissolution of marriage, name change, paternity, custody and post-judgment modification cases in the Family Division of the Circuit Court shall observe the following procedures, unless waived by the Administrative or Associate Administrative Judge, Family Division, for good cause shown:

1. Pro Se parties shall acquire and utilize the Eleventh Judicial Circuit forms packet or forms substantially in compliance therewith, which are available, at a cost not to exceed Thirty Five (\$35.00) Dollars, from the Clerk's Office;
2. Pro Se parties shall register with and receive information and instructions on relevant Family Court rules and procedures, referrals to social service agencies, and other appropriate assistance which is available from the Circuit's Family Court Self Help Program;
3. At the time of filing their pleadings and papers with the Court, Pro Se parties shall have those pleadings and papers reviewed as to form by Family Court Self Help Program; and
4. All Pro Se parties shall obtain a final hearing date from the Family Court Self Help Program.

The above procedures shall apply to a Pro Se party who seeks to file or files a dissolution of marriage, name change, paternity, custody or post-judgment modification case in the Family Division of the Circuit Court subsequent to the date the Supreme Court approves this Local Rule.

A waiver request filed under this Local Rule shall be considered an emergency ex parte motion pursuant to Rule 12.741(b)(1), Family Law Rules of Procedure, and shall be disposed of expeditiously in order to avoid any inconvenience to the requesting party.

This Local Rule may be rescinded by the Chief Judge with the concurrence of the majority of the Circuit and County Court Judges without further order of the Supreme Court.

Approved by the Supreme Court March 11, 1997.