

**IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
GENERAL ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES NO. 2026- 020  
JULY 1, 2026 – DECEMBER 31, 2026**

*WHEREAS*, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b) vests in the Chief Judge the authority and responsibility to implement an administrative plan that will effect the prompt disposition of cases, including the assignment of judges, court officers, and other court personnel;

*WHEREAS*, rule 2.215(b)(3) also provides that the Chief Judge shall consider the available resources and utilize them in a manner that ensures the efficient and proper administration of all courts within this circuit;

*WHEREAS*, rule 2.215(b)(4) permits the Chief Judge to assign any judge to temporary service for which the judge is qualified in any court within this circuit;

It is therefore **ORDERED**:

The judicial assignments for the Third Judicial Circuit are as follows, with the exception of any standing assignment orders entered due to conflicts or recusals, and any special appointments made due to extenuating or exigent circumstances by the Chief Judge that are not in accordance with the below assignments:

**CIRCUIT COURT**

<b>Columbia County</b>		
Civil	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>	Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (a/k/a Jimmy Ryce Act)
	Judge Wesley R. Douglas <sup>2</sup>	One half of all Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Koberlein, then Judge Feagle</i>
	Judge Fred Koberlein, Jr.	One half of all Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas, then Judge Feagle</i>
Criminal	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>	All Circuit Criminal Capital Cases to include post-conviction
	Acting Circuit Judge Garrett Hill	Division A: All other Circuit Criminal (felony) cases in which defendant's last name begins with the letters A-K <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Olin</i>

	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>	Division B: All Circuit Criminal (felony) cases in which defendant's last name begins with the letters L-Z <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Hill</i>
Family	Judge Wesley R. Douglas <sup>2</sup>	Domestic Relations and DOR cases in which petitioner's last name begins with the letters L-Z <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Koberlein then Judge Olin</i>
	Judge Fred Koberlein, Jr.	Domestic Relations and DOR cases in which petitioner's last name begins with the letters A-K, Juvenile Delinquency, TIPP and Truancy <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas, then Judge Olin</i>
	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>	Juvenile Dependency <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Koberlein then Judge Douglas</i>
	Judge Garrett Hill	Probate and Guardianship <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Olin then Judge Douglas</i>
	Acting Circuit Judge Sara Carter <sup>3</sup>	Injunctions for Protection, Marchman and Baker Acts; and Risk Protection Orders <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas then Judge Koberlein</i>
<b>Dixie County</b>		
Civil	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>	Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (a/k/a Jimmy Ryce Act)
	Acting Circuit Judge Jennifer J. Johnson	All remaining Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Koberlein, then Judge Feagle</i>
Criminal	Judge Mark E. Feagle <sup>4</sup>	All Circuit Criminal (felony) cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Johnson then Judge Koberlein</i>
Family	Judge Fred Koberlein, Jr	Domestic Relations cases, DOR cases and Injunctions for Protection. <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Johnson, then Judge Feagle</i>

	Acting Circuit Judge Jennifer J. Johnson	Juvenile Delinquency; Dependency; Truancy; Marchman and Baker Acts; Probate and Guardianship; and Risk Protection Orders <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Koberlein, then Judge Feagle</i>
<b>Hamilton County</b>		
Civil	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>  Judge Wesley R. Douglas <sup>2</sup>	Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (a/k/a Jimmy Ryce Act)  All Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Tyndal, then Judge Land</i>
Criminal	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>  Acting Circuit Judge Jamie L. Tyndal	Circuit Criminal Capital Case post-conviction  All Circuit Criminal (felony) cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas then Judge Land</i>
Family	Judge Wesley R. Douglas <sup>2</sup>  Acting Circuit Judge Jamie L. Tyndal	Domestic Relations and DOR <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Tyndal, then Judge Land</i>  Injunctions for Protection; Juvenile Delinquency; Dependency; Truancy/TIPP, Marchman and Baker Acts; Risk Protection Orders; and Probate and Guardianship <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning, then Judge Douglas</i>
<b>Lafayette County</b>		
Civil	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>  Acting Circuit Judge Darren K. Jackson	Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (a/k/a Jimmy Ryce Act)  All remaining Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas, then Judge Johnson</i>
Criminal	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>  Judge Wesley R. Douglas <sup>2</sup>	Circuit Criminal Capital Case post-conviction  All other Circuit Criminal (felony) cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Jackson, then Judge Johnson</i>

Family	Acting Circuit Judge Darren K. Jackson	Domestic Relations; Injunctions for Protection; Juvenile Delinquency; Dependency; Marchman and Baker Acts; Risk Protection Orders; DOR; and Probate and Guardianship <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Johnson, then to Judge Douglas</i>
<b>Madison County</b>		
Civil	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>  Acting Circuit Judge E. Bailey Browning, III <sup>5</sup>	Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (a/k/a Jimmy Ryce Act)  All remaining Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Hardee, then to Judge Parker</i>
Criminal	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>  Judge Cary A. Hardee, III <sup>6</sup>	All Circuit Criminal Capital cases to include post-conviction  All Circuit Criminal (felony) cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning, then Judge Tyndal</i>
Family	Judge Cary A. Hardee, III <sup>6</sup>  Acting Circuit Judge E. Bailey Browning <sup>5</sup>	Domestic relations and DOR cases; Injunctions for protection and Probate and Guardianship <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning, then Judge Parker</i>  Juvenile Delinquency; Dependency; Risk Protection Orders; Marchman and Baker Acts; <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Tyndal, then Judge Hardee</i>
<b>Suwannee County</b>		
Civil	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>  Judge Kathryn R. Land  Judge Mark E. Feagle <sup>4</sup>	Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (a/k/a Jimmy Ryce Act)  One-half of all Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle, then Judge Griffin</i>  One-half of all Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Land, then Judge Griffin</i>

Criminal	Judge Kathryn R. Land	Division A: Circuit Criminal (felony) cases in which the defendant's last name begins with the letters A-K <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle, then Judge Griffin</i>
	Judge Mark E. Feagle <sup>4</sup>	Division B: Circuit Criminal (felony) cases in which the defendant's last name begins with the letters L-Z <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Land, then Judge Griffin</i>
Family	Judge Kathryn R. Land	Domestic Relations and DOR cases in which petitioner's last name begins with the letters A-K, and Juvenile Dependency. <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle, then Judge Griffin</i>
	Judge Mark Feagle <sup>4</sup>	Domestic relations and DOR cases in which petitioner's last name begins with the letters L-Z <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Land, then Judge Griffin</i>
	Acting Circuit Judge Jennifer K. Griffin	Probate and Guardianship; Injunction for Protection cases; Juvenile Delinquency; Truancy; and Marchman and Baker Acts; and Risk Protection Orders <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Land, then Judge Feagle</i>
<b>Taylor County</b>		
Civil	Judge Melissa G. Olin <sup>1</sup>	Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (a/k/a Jimmy Ryce Act)
	Judge Cary A. Hardee, III <sup>6</sup>	Circuit Civil cases <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Parker, then Judge Blue</i>
Criminal	Judge Greg S. Parker	All Circuit Criminal (felony) motions, pretrial and trials. <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Blue, then Judge Hardee</i>
	Acting Circuit Judge Bill Blue <sup>7</sup>	All Circuit Criminal (felony) arraignments & violations of probation. <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Parker, then Judge Hardee</i>





Hamilton County	Judge Jamie L. Tyndal	First Appearance; County Criminal (misdemeanor); Traffic County Civil; and Small Claims <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning, then to Judge Douglas</i>
Lafayette County	Judge Darren K. Jackson	First Appearance; County Criminal (misdemeanor); Traffic County Civil; and Small Claims <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Griffin, then to Judge Douglas</i>
Madison County	Judge E. Bailey Browning <sup>2</sup>	First Appearance; County Criminal (misdemeanor); Traffic County Civil; and Small Claims <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Tyndal, then Judge Hardee</i>
Suwannee County	Judge Jennifer K. Griffin	First Appearance; County Criminal (misdemeanor); Traffic County Civil; and Small Claims <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Jackson, then Judge Land</i>
Taylor County	Judge Bill Blue <sup>3</sup>	First Appearance; County Criminal (misdemeanor); Traffic County Civil; and Small Claims <i>Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Johnson, then to Judge Parker</i>

Standing orders of recusal:

<sup>1</sup> Cases that would be assigned to Judge Sara Carter pursuant to the above, and in which the law firms of Douglas & Douglas, Darby, Peele & Greene, Meldon Law or Mark Pionessa, Esq. represent a party, shall automatically be assigned by the clerk to the judge responsible for her recusals as outlined above.

<sup>2</sup> Cases that would be assigned to Judge E. Bailey Browning pursuant to the above, and in which the law firm of Davis, Schnitker, Reeves and Browning, PA, represent a party, shall automatically be assigned by the clerk to the judge responsible for his recusals as outlined above.

<sup>3</sup> Cases that would be assigned to Judge Bill Blue pursuant to the above, and in which Angela Ball, Esq. represents a party, shall automatically be assigned by the clerk to the judge responsible for his recusals as outlined above.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENT SUCCESSION

If all steps for disqualification or recusal within a specific county and division are exhausted and a case still needs to be reassigned, all circuit cases will be assigned utilizing an alphabetical rotation of all judges, both circuit and county. County court cases will be assigned

using an alphabetical rotation of county judges. Court Administration will be responsible for determining these supplemental assignments. If necessary or appropriate, the case will be assigned by special appointment of the Chief Judge.

### **JUDICIAL ROTATIONS**

Upon an election, an appointment, or any other assignment changes, the entire affected case load, including recusals, transfers to an incoming judge. If there are specific complex cases or cases close to resolution, in the interest of judicial economy and after consultation with the affected judges, the case may remain with the previously assigned judge.

### **ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY COURT JUDGES OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO OTHER COUNTIES WITHIN THE CIRCUIT**

As provided in this Order (i.e., certain recusals from one county judge to another county judge) and when otherwise assigned by specific order of the Chief Judge, the county court judges of the circuit are hereby appointed to hear, conduct, and determine matters of county court jurisdiction that are presented to them in all counties of the circuit.

### **TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGES AS COUNTY COURT JUDGES**

All circuit court judges of the Third Judicial Circuit are temporarily appointed to adjudicate any pending issue in any county court case in the Third Judicial Circuit.

### **JURISDICTION OF CHILD SUPPORT HEARING OFFICER, CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION HEARING OFFICER, AND GENERAL MAGISTRATE**

<b>Name of Officer</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Duties and/or Venue</b>
Christina N. Seifert	General Magistrate	Mortgage foreclosure, Probate and Guardianship, and Domestic Relations cases as specifically assigned
Stephen P. Johnson	Child Support Hearing Officer	DOR/Title IV-D child support hearings in all counties
Thomas J. Kennon	Civil Traffic Hearing Officer	Columbia County civil traffic infraction hearings

### **CONTROL OF DOCKETS**

The control of the dockets for the various divisions of court shall rest with the presiding judge at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

**INMATE REVIEW**

Each County Jail within the Third Judicial Circuit submits their jail population statistics to Court Administration for monthly review.

**REGULATION AND USE OF COURTROOMS**


Management and use of the courtrooms and associated court space in each of the seven counties of the circuit shall be determined by the Chief Judge in consultation with the local county and circuit judges. Criminal matters will take precedence over civil matters.

**PROCEDURE FOR CALENDARING CIRCUIT COURT CASES**

All cases under circuit court jurisdiction shall be calendared before the judge assigned to the division in which the case has been filed. When a rule, statute, or procedure mandates expedited judicial action on a matter and the judge assigned to the division is unavailable, the Chief Judge shall assign a judge to hear the case or cases pursuant to this order. This judge will be the next available circuit judge or a county judge in the county of jurisdiction.

This order replaces all prior orders of General Assignment of Judges.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers in Columbia County, Florida, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

  
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MELISSA G. OLIN, Chief Judge

- Original: Columbia County Clerk of Court
- Copies: Third Judicial Circuit Judges
- Third Judicial Circuit Judicial Assistants
- Third Judicial Circuit Clerks of Court
- Third Judicial Circuit Staff
- Third Judicial Circuit Office of the State Attorney
- Third Judicial Circuit Office of the Public Defender
- Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel
- Department of Children and Families
- Partnership for Strong Families
- Guardian ad Litem