

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SPECIAL ORDER

IN RE: REASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY CIVIL CASES

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2021, the Court amended the judicial assignments of Divisions M-0 and M-9 due to the increase in county court civil case filings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Administrative Order No. 3-38.2, *In Re: Assignment of County Court Landlord/Tenant Eviction Cases*, entered on November, 17, 2021, county court landlord/tenant eviction cases assigned to Division M-2 were reassigned to Divisions M-0 and M-9; and

WHEREAS, to enable the prompt disposition of cases and to equalize caseloads to the extent possible, it is necessary to transfer county civil cases from Division M-0 to Division M-9; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the authority vested in the chief judge under article V, section 2(d), Florida Constitution; section 43.26, Florida Statutes; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2);

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ORDERED that prior to Monday, December 20, 2021, the Polk County Clerk of Court is directed to randomly transfer cases from Division M-0 to Division M-9 as follows:

1. *Pending/Never Closed Cases*: The Clerk shall equalize to the extent possible the number of pending/never closed cases in Divisions M-0 and M-9. Equalization shall be accomplished by randomly reassigning pending/never closed cases from Division M-0 to Division M-9.
2. *Re-opened Cases*: The Clerk shall equalize to the extent possible the number of re-opened cases in Divisions M-0 and M-9. Equalization shall be accomplished by randomly reassigning pending/never closed cases from Division M-0 to Division M-9.
3. *Closed Cases*: To the extent possible, an equal number of closed cases that were filed between January 1, 2000, and the present shall be transferred from Division M-0 to Division M-9.
4. *Cases Excluded from Transfer*: No county court landlord/tenant or unlawful detainer cases shall be transferred from Division M-0 to Division M-9 as part of the equalization ordered in this Special Order.

DONE AND ORDERED on this 17th day of December, 2021.

s/ELLEN S. MASTERS, Chief Judge

Copies:
All Judges
Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Electronic Bar Mailing