

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC16-46

IN RE: STEERING COMMITTEE ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN
THE COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The goal of the family court initiative is to establish a fully integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases involving children and families. The Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court has worked diligently to encourage and facilitate family court efforts. In carrying out the goal of the family court initiative, the Steering Committee shall perform its responsibilities consistent with The Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch 2016-2021, including but not limited to Goal 1.2 (Ensure the fair and timely resolution of all cases through effective case management), Goal 1.5 (Encourage the use of consistent practices, procedures, and forms statewide), and Goal 1.6 (Increase the use of constructive and non-adversarial resolutions in family law cases). With the guidance and support of the Steering Committee, courts around the state have implemented numerous improvements as they endeavor to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of family court operations.

Over the next two years, the Steering Committee shall perform the following tasks:

1. Determine how the handling of criminal domestic violence cases in Florida's judicial circuits may have changed since the issuance of the Florida Supreme Court's opinion in In Re: Report of the Family Court Steering Committee, 794 So. 2d 518 (Fla. 2001), and develop recommendations for model practices to help ensure the safety of the victims, eliminate conflicting orders between divisions, and provide clear, statewide standards.
2. Continue monitoring and working with each judicial circuit on refining one family/one judge practices, and define a set of desired outcomes that delineates a successful one family/one judge model.
3. Examine existing court rules, pertinent statutes, and legislative proposals that impact the model family court concept and determine if changes are necessary to enhance the operation of family courts.
4. Continue monitoring school-justice partnership efforts in existing sites and oversee expansion to additional jurisdictions.
5. Assist the multi-disciplinary dependency court improvement panel that must be established by the Office of the State Courts Administrator to guide the federally prescribed efforts of the Dependency Court

Improvement Program grant. In particular, ensure that the panel's dependency-specific work in the areas of early childhood and trauma-responsive courts are applied to other family court case types, when applicable.

The Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court's authority to propose statutory or rule changes to the Court is limited to the scope of charge three.

Should the Steering Committee make recommendations that require additional funding or resources to implement, the Steering Committee is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationship with the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission or the Trial Court Budget Commission, as appropriate. At a minimum, the Steering Committee shall provide the chair of the respective budget commission with copies of committee reports and recommendations that reference the need for additional court funding or resources, prior to the finalization of those reports.

Should the Steering Committee make recommendations that impact on court technology, the committee is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationship with the Florida Courts Technology Commission. At a minimum, the Steering Committee shall provide the Chair of the Florida Courts Technology

Commission with copies of committee reports and recommendations that reference court technology, prior to the finalization of those reports.

Should the Steering Committee make recommendations about the education and training needs of judges and court staff, the committee is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationships with the Florida Court Education Council. At a minimum, the Steering Committee shall provide the Chair of the Florida Court Education Council with copies of committee reports and recommendations that reference court education, prior to the finalization of those reports.

The following individuals are appointed to serve on the Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court for a term to begin on July 1, 2016, and expire on June 30, 2018:

The Honorable Scott M. Bernstein
Circuit Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Alice Blackwell
Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Hope Bristol
Circuit Judge, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

Theresa Drake, J.D.
Director, Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic
Levin College of Law, University of Florida

The Honorable Ariana Fajardo
Circuit Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Mimi Graham, Ed.D.
Director, Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy
Florida State University

The Honorable Christine Greider
Circuit Judge, Twentieth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Lee E. Haworth
Senior Judge, State of Florida

The Honorable Jack Helinger
Circuit Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Eve Janocko
Chief Deputy Court Administrator, Fourth Judicial Circuit

Mr. Jon Johnson
General Magistrate, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Sandy Karlan
Senior Judge, State of Florida

The Honorable Carroll J. Kelly
County Court Judge, Dade County

The Honorable Terrance Ketchel
Circuit Judge, First Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Kathleen J. Kroll
Circuit Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Laurel Lee
Circuit Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Patrice Moore
Circuit Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Mr. Jack Moring
Attorney, Crystal River

The Honorable Jonathan Sjostrom
Chief Judge, Second Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Bertila Soto
Chief Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Lynn Tepper
Circuit Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Mary Lou Miller Wagstaff
Attorney, Largo

Ms. Robin Wright
Trial Court Administrator, First Judicial Circuit

The success of family court depends upon effective communication among all stakeholders. Accordingly, the following representatives, or their designees, shall also serve as members of the committee:

President, Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers

Executive Director, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

President, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services

Executive Director, Florida Guardian ad Litem Program

Secretary, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

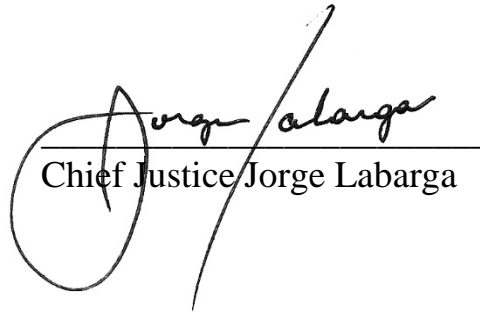
Secretary, Florida Department of Children and Families

Commissioner, Florida Department of Education


The Honorable Christine Greider shall serve as chair to the Steering Committee through June 30, 2018. Staff support shall be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

The Steering Committee shall submit its reports to the Chief Justice through the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on June 30, 2016.


Chief Justice Jorge Labarga

ATTEST:


John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

