

**IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2010-094

ADOPTIONS NEEDED NOW PROJECT

In most termination of parental rights cases, the time period between the final order terminating parental rights and the final order of adoption is significant. With support from the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, the L. David Shear Children's Law Center of Bay Area Legal Services and Hillsborough Kids, Incorporated have been collaborating to expedite final adoptions of foster children. The collaborative project – Adoptions Needed Now – focuses on foster children five years old and younger and includes older siblings. The Adoptions Needed Now project, through funding from The Florida Bar Foundation, has secured services of pro bono attorneys to act as attorneys ad litem.

Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.217 authorizes the court to appoint an attorney ad litem for a child in a dependency case. By the power vested in the chief judge under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is therefore ORDERED:

1. Adoptions Needed Now Attorneys Ad Litem

An Attorney Ad Litem volunteering through the Adoptions Needed Now project may be appointed by the court to represent any child for whom the attorney seeks appointment. Appointment may be sought by a motion filed by the prospective Attorney Ad Litem, by a verbal request of a Children's Law Center Attorney Ad Litem, or by both written motion and verbal request.

2. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective immediately.

It is ORDERED in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on this 11th day of October, 2010.


Manuel Menendez, Jr., Chief Judge

Original to: Pat Frank, Clerk of the Court
Copy to: All Unified Family Court Judges
Rebecca Bell, L. David Shear Children's Law Center, Bay Area Legal
Services