

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. S-2000-120  
(Supersedes Administrative Order No. A-2000-013)**

**IN RE:                    COURT APPROVAL OF CONTINGENT FEES**

**WHEREAS** Rule 4-1.5(f)(4)(B)(ii) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar provides that if a client is unable to obtain an attorney of the client's choice because of contingent fee limitations, the client may petition the circuit court for approval of any fee contract between the client and an attorney of the client's choosing; and

**WHEREAS** Rule 4-1.5(f)(4)(D)(iii) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar provides that attorneys or firms that accept substantially equal active participation in the providing of legal services may apply to the court for authorization of a fee division in excess of 25%; and

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to provide a mechanism by which court authorization may be sought pursuant to these rules; it is therefore

**ORDERED:**

1. All clients who seek court approval of a fee contract between the client and an attorney of the client's choosing pursuant to Rule 4-1.5(f)(4)(B)(ii) shall file a petition in the General Civil Division of the Circuit Court.

2. All counsel who seek court authorization for a fee division in excess of 25% pursuant to Rule 4-1.5(f)(4)(D)(iii) shall file a sworn petition signed by all counsel in the General Civil Division of the Circuit Court. Such petition shall contain a certificate showing service on the client and The Florida Bar.

3. All petitions filed pursuant to these rules may be filed as a separate proceeding before suit or simultaneously with the filing of a complaint.

4. The court may seal any portion of the court file pertaining to the request for approval

of a fee contract or for authorization for a fee division in excess of 25%.

5. This administrative order supersedes Administrative Order A-2000-013 and is effective immediately.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in chambers in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2000.

\s\ F. Dennis Alvarez  
F. Dennis Alvarez, Chief Judge

Original to: Richard Ake, Clerk of the Court  
cc: All Circuit Civil Judges  
The Florida Bar