

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER A-2021-010
(Supersedes Administrative Order A-2019-014)**

**HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION**

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Convention) is a mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained from the child's country of habitual residence. More than 30 years ago, Congress enacted the International Child Abduction Remedies Act to implement the Convention in the United States, and Florida law recognizes the Convention in sections 61.524-61.525, Florida Statutes.

In light of Florida being one of the states in which a significant number of Convention cases are filed, the Florida Supreme Court intends to establish a network of Florida judges who develop an expertise in this important area of the law. In accordance with Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC19-19 and as a result of recent judicial reassignments, it is necessary to re-designate a judge with primary responsibility for handling Convention cases filed within the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

By the power vested in the chief judge under article V, section 2(d), Florida Constitution; section 43.26, Florida Statutes; Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2); and Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC19-19, it is ORDERED:

Effective January 19, 2021, the Honorable Alissa M. Ellison, Circuit Court Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, is designated with primary responsibility for handling Convention cases filed within this circuit.

ENTERED on January 14, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald N. Ficarrota". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald N. Ficarrota, Chief Judge

Original to: Cindy Stuart, Clerk of the Circuit Court

cc: The Honorable Charles T. Canady, Chief Justice, Florida Supreme Court
The Honorable Alissa M. Ellison, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
The Honorable Christine A. Marlewski, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
Rose Patterson, Chief of Education and Improvement, OSCA
Douglas R. Bakke, Chief Operating Officer of Court Operations, Clerk of
the Circuit Court

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC19-19

IN RE: CASES INVOLVING THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON CIVIL
ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

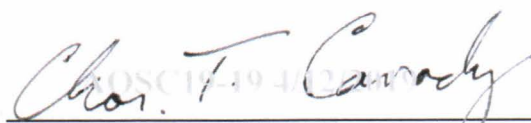
The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (hereinafter “the Convention”) is a mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained from the child’s country of habitual residence. In 1988, Congress enacted the International Child Abduction Remedies Act to implement the Convention in the United States, and Florida law recognizes the Convention in sections 61.524-61.525, Florida Statutes.

In accordance with the Convention, a person whose custody rights have been breached by the wrongful removal or retention of a child under the age of sixteen may petition to the appropriate court where the child is located. Once an application for return has been filed, the court is required to act expeditiously in the proceedings for the return of the child. Florida is one of the states in which a significant number of such cases are filed.

It is the intent of the Florida State Courts System to better protect children from the effects of their wrongful removal through the establishment of a network of Florida judges who develop expertise in this important area of law. Accordingly, the chief judge of each judicial circuit shall, by May 17, 2019, enter an administrative order designating a judge with primary responsibility for handling Convention cases filed within that jurisdiction.

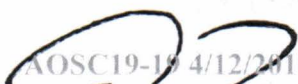
The resulting Florida network of Hague Convention judges should, on an ongoing basis, participate in relevant and cost-effective educational opportunities offered by the Florida Court Education Council and other judicial and legal education providers.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on April 12, 2019.



Chief Justice Charles T. Canady
AOSC19-19 4/12/2019

ATTEST:



John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court
AOSC19-19 4/12/2019

