

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2014-062
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2006-161)**

ADOPTION RECORDS

Section 63.162(2), Florida Statutes, provides that all papers and records pertaining to an adoption are confidential and subject to inspection only upon order of the court.

Attorneys for adoptive parents need access to adoption court files and without the entry of this administrative order, counsel for adoptive parents would be required to file a motion to unseal an adoption court file in virtually every case.

Section 28.29, Florida Statutes, requires the Clerk of the Circuit Court (“clerk”) to record all final judgments of civil actions in the official records, but the recording of a final judgment of adoption in the official records would frustrate the confidentiality provisions of section 63.162(2), Florida Statutes.

By the power 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), it is therefore **ORDERED**:

1. Access to Court File by Adoptive Parents’ Attorney

An attorney of record for the adoptive parents may have access to the respective adoption court file while the adoption is pending. The adoption is pending from the initial filing until the time expires to file an appeal and, if filed, determined by the appellate court.

2. Final Judgments

i. Certified Copies for Adoptive Parents’ Attorney

If requested by an attorney of record for the adoptive parents, and subject to payment of the appropriate fees, the clerk will provide to an attorney of record for the adoptive parents certified copies of the final judgment of adoption.

ii. No Recording

Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge in the respective Unified

Family Court division, the clerk must not release final judgments of adoption from the court file for recording in the official records.

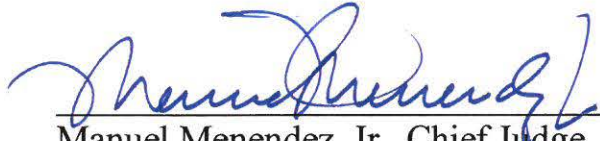
3. Previous Administrative Order Superseded

This administrative order supersedes Administrative Order S-2006-161 (*Adoption Records*).

4. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective January 1, 2015.

It is ORDERED in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida on this 5th day of December, 2014.



Manuel Menendez, Jr., Chief Judge

Original to: Pat Frank, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Copy to: All Unified Family Court Division Judges
Hillsborough County Bar Association Marital & Family Law Section