

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 4.602-2/12*

IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF CASES -
CRIMINAL DIVISION, COUNTY COURT

Administrative Order No. 11.101-9/08, sets forth this circuit's policy concerning the assignment of judges, appointment of administrative judges and assignment of cases and requires that the Clerk of Court equitably and randomly assign cases "within the division in which the cases are filed". The County Court, Criminal Division cases are assigned to the divisions by various means, in order to provide an efficient process of handling the large number of criminal cases, in addition to allowing for an equitable and random assignment of cases.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

Cases filed in the County Court, Criminal Division, shall be assigned to divisions in the main courthouse as follows:

1. Traffic crimes and misdemeanors, other than domestic violence, shall be assigned to a trial division by the Clerk of Court. **The clerk of court shall assign all misdemeanor and criminal traffic cases on a rotating basis among the judges in the County Court Division using a blind filing process;**
2. Misdemeanors down-filed from felony arrests shall be randomly assigned to a trial division and set by the Clerk of Court for arraignment to be held within ten days of filing;
3. Except for domestic violence cases arising within the geographical jurisdiction of the West County Courthouse, all domestic violence cases shall be assigned to the designated domestic violence divisions.
4. When a defendant has more than one case pending against him/her, and that information is known to the clerk, the clerk shall assign all cases, except cases involving domestic violence, to the division having the case with the lowest number. Pending shall include cases on appeal.

5. When a defendant is on probation and is charged in a new case, and that information is known to the clerk, the clerk shall assign the case to the division which placed the defendant on probation unless the new charge involves domestic violence.
6. If the state enters a nolle prosequi and subsequently refiles the case, the newly-filed case shall be assigned to the division in which the original case was assigned, unless the refiled charge involves domestic violence, in which case, the newly filed case shall be assigned to the designated domestic violence divisions, unless it arose within the geographical jurisdiction of the West County Courthouse. It is the duty of the state to advise the clerk of the earlier nolle prossed case.

DONE and **SIGNED** in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida,
this 21 day of February, 2012.



Peter D. Blanc
Chief Judge

*supersedes admin. order no. 4.602-9/08