

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 5.605-9/08*

IN RE: COMPANION AND REFILED JUVENILE CASES

Sound principles of judicial economy require the establishment of procedures to govern the assignment of companion and refiled cases.

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

1. If, rather than file separate counts in the same information or indictment, the state elects to file separate cases concerning the same factual situation, the assistant state attorney filing the cases shall notify the clerk, in writing, that companion cases are being filed. The clerk, in turn, utilizing the blind-assignment system, shall select one judge and assign all designated companion cases to that judge. When this procedure is employed, the clerk shall file a written notice that the cases have been assigned in compliance with this order.
2. If companion cases are assigned to different judges, it shall be the continuing duty of the state to notify, in writing, all judges involved and to file a motion to reassign the cases to the judge with the lowest numbered case.
3. If the state enters a nolle prosequi and subsequently refiles the case, the newly-filed case shall be assigned to the division of court in which the original case was assigned. It is the duty of the state to advise the clerk of the earlier nolle prosequi case.
4. **If a conflict exists between this administrative order and the procedures outlined in Administrative Order 5.102 9/08 (as amended) pertaining to dependency and delinquency assignments, Administrative Order 5.102 shall govern.**

29 **DONE and SIGNED** in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this day of September, 2008.


Kathleen J. Kröll
Chief Judge

*supersedes admin. order 4.006-9/92 (as it pertains to juveniles)