

IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
LOCAL RULE IX

IN RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

Pursuant to Article V, section 7, Florida Constitution and section 43.30, Florida Statutes, there is created within the Twentieth Judicial Circuit a Domestic Violence Court. This court is created to hear all criminal domestic violence cases, as well as all civil injunctions for protection against domestic violence and injunctions for protection against repeat violence. The Court is initially established in Lee County, but may be expanded to other counties in the circuit if caseloads and budgets permit by Order entered by the Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit.

A Domestic Violence Unit is also established under the aegis of the Domestic Violence Court. The Unit shall consist of a domestic violence coordinator, a clerk, and such other personnel as are deemed necessary by the Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit and the Court Administrator. The Unit will assist petitioners in the filing of petitions for injunction for protection against domestic violence and repeat violence, civil motions for contempt, other related motions and applications for orders. The unit will also handle inquiries from the petitioner and the respondent. The domestic violence coordinator will appear at all court proceedings and will assist the court by monitoring all civil court orders.

The Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit is also authorized to enter such other orders as may be necessary to effectuate the intent and purpose of this rule.

This rule shall be effective upon approval by the Supreme Court in accordance with Florida Rules of Judicial Administration 2.050(e)(1).

Approved by the Supreme Court on October 26, 1994.

A TRUE COPY  
Attest:  
SID J. WHITE, Clerk  
Supreme Court of Florida  
By Julia A. [Signature]  
Chief Deputy Clerk

