

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 16TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF
FLORIDA, IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 5.029

IN RE:

VISITATION MEDIATION
PROGRAM

_____ :

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the judiciary of this Circuit that issues concerning visitation often arise in connection with child support enforcement hearings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute Section 44.102 (2), the Court may refer to mediation all or any part of a filed civil action, and where a family mediation program has been established, the Court shall refer disputes concerning custody, visitation, or other parental responsibility issues, to mediation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure Sections 12.740 and 12.741, all contested family matters may be referred to mediation; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the judiciary is to encourage both the payment of child support and parental contact with children; and

WHEREAS, the financial resources of parties to child support proceedings should not be diminished by the costs associated with mediation; it is now therefore,

ORDERED:

1. There is hereby created a Visitation Mediation Program to support the Court handling child support enforcement proceedings.

2. When an issue regarding child visitation is raised during a child support hearing, the Court, with the agreement of the parties, may refer the matter of visitation to mediation. When one of the parties is represented by the Department of Revenue, the Department may be called upon to assist in noticing that party for attendance at mediation.
3. Compensation for mediators appointed to Project cases shall be set at a flat rate of \$100.00 per mediation session, to be paid from county funds. If the parties settle their visitation issues in mediation, the appointed mediator will reduce the agreement to writing and file it with the Court.

Administrative Order 5.016 *In re: Visitation Mediation Pilot Program* is hereby rescinded.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Key West, Monroe County, Florida, this ____ day of July, 2001.

Richard G. Payne
Chief Judge