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2010-07

FILED

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DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Ann D. Schuman
CLERK OF THE COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
ASSIGNMENT OF JUVENILE)
DEPENDENCY MATTERS IN THE) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT) No. 2010-07

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF
JUVENILE DEPENDENCY MATTERS IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT**

WHEREAS, the Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 1.30 establishes a strong chief judge over the district court. EDCR 1.30 (b) (5) provides that the chief judge shall make regular and special assignments of all judges of the district. The Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 1.60 (a) provides that the chief judge shall have the authority to assign or reassign all cases pending in the district.

WHEREAS, the Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 1.30 (b) (14) provides that the chief judge supervise the court's calendar, and apportion the business of the court among the several departments of the court as equally as possible.

WHEREAS, the Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 1.30 (b) (18) provides that the chief judge assure that the court duties are timely and orderly performed. The chief judge's authority to reassign cases is based primarily on the need to balance the caseload between

T. ARTHUR RITCHIE, JR.
DISTRICT JUDGE

FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. H
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89155

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departments and to coordinate adequate judicial coverage of matters pending before the district court.

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2007, the Nevada Supreme Court issued an Order re: Juvenile Dependency Matters in the Eighth Judicial District Court in ADKT 407.

WHEREAS, the Nevada Supreme Court ordered that:

1. The Family Division of the Eighth Judicial District Court has critical needs for additional judges because civil domestic relations caseloads and juvenile delinquency and dependency caseloads exceed national standards, and that the current and projected judicial caseloads threaten the quality of service offered to the citizens of Clark County, Nevada; and
2. The Nevada Supreme Court has inherent authority to direct the Chief Judge to appoint presiding judges over civil domestic relations and juvenile court matters, and to direct adequate coverage of court business; and
3. The responsibility for managing the cases of dependent children within the Family Division of the Eighth Judicial District Court is one of the most important functions of the court. The Nevada Supreme Court has a duty to consider the needs of the juvenile justice system, which necessarily include meeting federal mandates for the review and management of juvenile dependency cases; and
4. The Nevada Supreme Court has consulted with the district judges of the Family Division concerning the needs of the juvenile court system, and that they have agreed to support the deployment of additional judicial resources to the critical need of dependent children, even though it will result in larger civil domestic caseloads for a majority of family division judges; and
5. The Nevada Supreme Court, after consultation with the judges of the Family Division of the Eighth Judicial District Court, has determined that an additional district court judge should be assigned to the juvenile court dependency functions; and for these reasons we enter this order.
6. The chief judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court shall designate a second family division judge for assignment to juvenile dependency cases effective July 1, 2007. The civil domestic relations cases of the assigned judge shall necessarily be assigned proportionally to the remaining family division judges responsible for civil domestic caseloads.

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WHEREAS, prior to the Nevada Supreme Court Order, one district judge and two juvenile hearing masters managed juvenile dependency cases in Clark County, Nevada. After the Nevada Supreme Court Order was entered, the chief judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court assigned a second district judge to manage juvenile dependency cases. Four judicial officers have been assigned juvenile dependency cases since July, 2007. In the fall, 2008, a third dependency judicial officer was approved by Clark County and hired by the district court for dependency matters. At that time, the chief judge reassigned the second district judge back to managing civil domestic matters.

WHEREAS, the Nevada Supreme Court has consulted with the chief judge and the presiding judge of the family division concerning the needs of the juvenile court system, and the district court has agreed to support the assignment of additional judicial resources to address the critical needs of dependent children. The family division of the district court met with the chief judge on May 21, 2010, and agreed to support the assignment of a second district judge from the family division to manage juvenile dependency cases.

WHEREAS, the chief judge after consulting with the family division presiding judge selected Judge Frank P. Sullivan as the second district judge to be assigned to juvenile dependency matters, joining Judge Dianne Steel as the district judges assigned to hear juvenile dependency court matters.

WHEREAS, the juvenile dependency docket is one of the most important managed by the district court. Child welfare cases warrant sufficient assignment of judicial resources to protect children and to comply with applicable state and federal law. This administrative order is entered to improve the management of dependency cases, and to bolster the judicial resources dedicated to this important docket.

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Therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Honorable Frank P. Sullivan, Department O, is hereby designated to serve as a juvenile dependency court judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court effective July 1, 2010.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to this administrative order, two district judges, the Honorable Dianne Steel, Department G, and the Honorable Frank P. Sullivan, Department O, shall be the assigned juvenile dependency matters for the Eighth Judicial District Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Administrative Order shall be in effect on July 1, 2010.

DATED this 21st day of May, 2010.



CHIEF JUDGE
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT