

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

GENERAL ORDER: 2017 D 1

SUBJECT: CONSOLIDATION OF THE COOK COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Commencing February 6, 2017, the following shall be in effect for the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County:

I. Overview

In order to better serve families and litigants in Cook County, effective February 6, 2017, the Domestic Relations Division located in the Richard J. Daley Center will no longer maintain a separate Parentage and Child Support Court. All judges assigned to the Domestic Relations Division in the Daley Center will preside over both dissolution of marriage cases and parentage cases.

II. New Organization of the Domestic Relations Division

Upon consolidation, the Domestic Relations Division will be comprised of 15 individual calendar judges, 3 judicial teams (1 preliminary judge and 5 trial judges per team), and 3 expedited judges.

15 INDIVIDUAL CALENDAR JUDGES

The following Calendars will comprise the 15 individual calendar judges:

8 Current Individual Calendar Judges

Cal. 61	Cal. 21
Cal. 62	Cal. 22
Cal. 63	Cal. 23
Cal. 64	Cal. 24

6 (former) Parentage Court Calendars

Cal. 89	Cal. 97
Cal. 94	Cal. 98
Cal. 95	Cal. 99

1 (former) Post- Decree Calendar

Cal. 11

JUDICIAL TEAMS

The structure of the teams will remain as follows:

Team C	Team D	Team E
Preliminary Judge: Cal. C	Preliminary Judge: Cal. D	Preliminary Judge: Cal. E
Team Judge: Cal. 31	Team Judge: Cal. 41	Team Judge: Cal. 51
Team Judge: Cal. 32	Team Judge: Cal. 42	Team Judge: Cal. 52
Team Judge: Cal. 33	Team Judge: Cal. 43	Team Judge: Cal. 53
Team Judge: Cal. 34	Team Judge: Cal. 44	Team Judge: Cal. 54
Team Judge: Cal. 35	Team Judge: Cal. 45	Team Judge: Cal. 55

EXPEDITED JUDGES

The following Calendars will comprise the 3 Expedited Judge Calendars:

Cal. 73
Cal. 74
Cal 75

III. Assignment of Newly Filed Cases

All newly filed pre-decree cases shall be randomly assigned by computer to one of the following 18 Judicial Calendars:

Cal. C	Cal. 23
Cal. D	Cal. 24
Cal. E	Cal. 89
Cal. 61	Cal. 94
Cal. 62	Cal. 95
Cal. 63	Cal. 97
Cal. 64	Cal.98
Cal. 21	Cal. 99
Cal 22	Cal. 11

IV. New Judicial Team Procedures

- A. In order to maintain case continuity, there will no longer be a post decree judge on each judicial team. Except for the preliminary judge on each team, each judge assigned to teams C, D & E shall preside over post-decree proceedings.
- B. The procedure for post-decree dissolution of marriage cases assigned to judicial teams shall be as follows:
 1. If a trial is held in a dissolution action, post decree matters shall remain with the team judge that presided over the trial.

2. If a team trial judge conducts a prove up and enters a judgment of dissolution of marriage in a case, post decree matters will be randomly assigned to any trial judge on that team.
 3. If the originally assigned prove up judge had involvement with a case beyond presiding over the prove up proceeding:
 - a. The judge may *sua sponte* retain the case to preside over post decree matters.
 - b. Litigants/attorneys may motion in front of the randomly assigned team judge and request that the case be returned to the original prove up judge to preside over post decree matters. Upon a motion by the parties:
 - i. The team trial judge to whom the case was randomly assigned for post-decree will transfer the matter back to the preliminary judge.
 - ii. The preliminary judge will send the case to the original prove up judge for ruling on the motion.
- C. The procedure for post-decree Parentage cases assigned to Judicial Teams shall be as follows:
1. If a trial is held in a parentage case the judge who presided over the trial will keep the case for post decree.
 2. If a parentage case is transferred to post decree, but initial Petitions for Child Support or Allocation of Parental Responsibilities were not addressed, upon filing of same, the team judge shall transfer the matter to the preliminary judge.

V. Reassignment of Existing Cases

- A. In order to implement the new judicial team post decree procedure outlined in section IV-A, the case inventory existing on post decree Calendars 11, 33, 43, & 54, shall be redistributed as follows:

Team C Calendar 33 Cases	distributed equally among calendars 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35
Team D Cal 43 Cases	distributed equally among calendars 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45
Team E Calendar 54 Cases	distributed equally among calendars 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55
Team C, D & E Calendar 11 Cases	distributed equally among calendars 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55

- B. In order to equalize the case inventory of the individual calendars, cases currently assigned to an individual calendar may be reassigned to a new individual calendar.
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Dated this 31st day of January, 2017. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and published.

ENTERED:



HON. GRACE G. DICKLER

Presiding Judge

Domestic Relations Division

Presiding Judge
Grace G. Dickler
JAN 31 2017
Circuit Court-1521