

**IN THE COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 1984-21

**IN RE: JUVENILE
 FAMILY LAW
 MISCELLANEOUS**

**CHILD AND SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS -
INTERVIEWS OF YOUNG VICTIMS**

This order is issued pursuant to the provisions of Section 7, Chapter 84-86, *Laws of Florida*, requiring the chief judge to provide by order reasonable limits on the number of interviews that young victims of child abuse must submit to for law enforcement or discovery purposes. This order shall apply to the investigation and prosecution of all cases of child abuse under Sections 794.011, 800.04, 827.03 and 827.04 and Chapter 39, *Florida Statutes*, when the victim is under the age of sixteen years at the time the interviews are sought.

“Interview” for the purposes of this order means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse, but does not include: a history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment; an initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

In accord with the foregoing and the need to act in the best interest of child victims of abuse, it is

ORDERED as follows:

1. No victim of child abuse who falls within the age guideline of this order shall be required to submit to more than three interviews in the course of investigation and prosecution of an episode of child abuse, except upon order of court as provided below.
2. The Court intends that the three interviews be allotted to meet the needs of potential parties as follows: one interview allotted to HRS and law enforcement, one to the State Attorney, one to the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse.
3. Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.

4. Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview of the victim.

5. When more than one party or agency participates in a single interview, the interview will be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties in the course of the interview.

6. Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of court upon motion for good cause shown. Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.

DONE AND ORDERED at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, this 1st day of October, 1984.

Signed by: M. C. Blanchard, Chief Judge

Copy hereof furnished to:

All Circuit Judges, First Judicial Circuit
All County Judges, First Judicial Circuit
All Clerks of Court, First Judicial Circuit
Honorable Curtis A. Golden, State Attorney
Honorable Jack Behr, Public Defender
Joseph D. Lorenz, Esquire, President, Okaloosa-Walton Bar Association
Wilmer H. Mitchell, Esquire, President, Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association
Millard L. Fretland, Esquire, Editor, *The Summation*
Robert T. Graham, Esquire, Assistant State Attorney
Mr. Roger Hinote, HRS, 160 Governmental Center, Pensacola
Mrs. Dian Levin, HRS, Juvenile Justice Center
Mr. Terry Shelby, Investigations - Sheriff's Office
Mr. Mike Maney, Investigations - Pensacola Police Department
Ms. Fran Walker, Coordinator, Guardian ad Litem Program
Terry Terrell, Esquire, Assistant Public Defender
Kenneth Williams, Esquire, Assistant State Attorney
John Hodges, Ph.D. and Mrs. Sally Putters, Child Protection Team
Mr. Ray C. Helms, Court Administrator