

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 1999-60**

**IN RE:           TRAFFIC COURT - HEARING OFFICERS**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION  
HEARING OFFICER PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has enacted legislation permitting the establishment of a Civil Infraction Hearing Officer Program (hereinafter referred to as "Program") in §318.30 through §318.38, *Florida Statutes*, and Rule 6.630 of the Florida Rules of Traffic Court; and

WHEREAS, the costs necessary to provide the services offered by the Program shall be funded by an assessment of an additional court cost and grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Major B. Harding, Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, by letter dated August 18, 1999, has approved the establishment of the Program in the First Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the Program and the respective funding are necessary for the administration of justice in this circuit to assist in relieving the excessive caseloads on the county courts, it is therefore

**ORDERED:**

1. The Civil Infraction Traffic Hearing Officer Program is hereby established in the counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa of the First Judicial Circuit pursuant to the provisions of Florida law.

2. Civil Traffic Hearing Officers (hereinafter referred to as "Hearing Officer") shall be independent contractors appointed by the Chief Judge. As many individuals may be selected to serve as Hearing Officers as may be necessary to ensure that traffic infraction cases are disposed of timely and efficiently. The Hearing Officers shall perform their duties and receive their remunerations in accordance to their contract with the Court.

3. Hearing Officers' duties shall be performed in accordance with *Florida Statutes*, Rules of Court, the Code of Judicial Conduct, applicable administrative orders, relevant case law and the terms and conditions of the executed contract between the Hearing Officer and the Court.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 1999.

Signed by: John P. Kuder, Chief Judge

Conformed copies to:

All County Judges, First Judicial Circuit  
All Circuit Judges, First Judicial Circuit  
All Clerks of Court, First Judicial Circuit  
Wayne Peacock, Court Administrator  
*The Summation*  
Okaloosa-Walton Newsletter