

December 15, 2020

The Honorable John Dan Kemp
Chief Justice
Arkansas Supreme Court
625 Marshall
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Amended Administrative Plan
17th Judicial District

Dear Chief:

Beginning January 1, 2021, the 17th Judicial District will have two new judges serving our district. In anticipation of this changing of the guard, we have examined our current administrative plan and have agreed to some modifications concerning the caseloads of Division 1 and Division 3 to more evenly distribute cases and better take advantage of these Judges' unique skills.

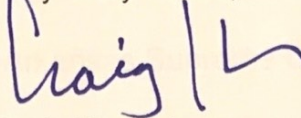
The changes are as follows:

1. Division 1 - will hear all civil cases and all probate cases, except civil commitments, in White County.
2. Division 3 - will hear all domestic relations and all civil commitments in White County.

Please note that the caseload distribution for Prairie County will not change under this proposal.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. I anxiously await your decision.

Very Truly Yours,



Craig Hannah
Administrative Judge
17 Judicial District

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN FOR THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 14
OF THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT

Judge Daniel Brock (Division 1), Judge Mark Pate (Division 2) and Judge Craig Hannah (Division 3) hereby submit to the Arkansas Supreme Court the following amended administrative plan for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit to be effective January 1, 2021.

Administrative Policy: Judges of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit shall meet during the first month of each calendar quarter to formulate, implement and act on matters of administrative policy and procedure within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. Majority approval of all circuit judges with the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit shall be required to adopt, enact or amend such administrative procedures or policies.

In White County, Arkansas cases shall be assigned by the clerk at the time of filing as follows:

- (A) Civil Cases - Judge Daniel Brock
- (B) Domestic Cases - Judge Craig Hannah
- (C) Probate Cases - Judge Daniel Brock, except for Civil Commitment cases which will be assigned to Judge Craig Hannah.
- (D) Juvenile Cases - Judge Craig Hannah, except for:
 - (i) Dependency/Neglect actions filed by the Department of Human Services, which shall be assigned to Judge Mark Pate

(E) Criminal Cases - Judge Mark Pate, except for:

- (i) Post conviction supervision of Drug Court cases, which will be assigned to Judge Craig Hannah.

Provided that Judge Mark Pate shall conduct all criminal jury orientation involving White County Cases

In Prairie County, Arkansas, cases will be assigned by the clerk at the time of filing as follows:

(A) Civil Cases - Judge Daniel Brock

(B) Domestic Cases - Judge Craig Hannah

(C) Probate Cases - Judge Craig Hannah

(D) Juvenile Cases - Judge Mark Pate

(E) Criminal Cases - Judge Daniel Brock, except for:

- (i) Post conviction supervision of Drug Court cases, which will be assigned to Judge Craig Hannah.

(F) Jury Orientation - Judge Daniel Brock

Judge Brock, Judge Pate, and Judge Hannah specifically agree that the above method of assignment of cases shall apply as to the initial case assignment and that cases may be transferred or exchanged among judges by agreement of those judges. Additionally all three judges recognize and accept that it is the affirmative duty of each judge to hear and dispose of any type cases when a judge is called upon to do so under appropriate circumstances such as absence of the assigned judge, recusal or caseload requirements.

The assignment of cases, as set forth above, is a fair and equitable distribution of cases within the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit and will provide for effective administration of justice.

Drug Court: The 17th Circuit drug court program has been in operation since 2003. Court sessions are conducted in White county. However, Prairie County defendants are eligible for admission to the drug court program. The program primarily utilizes a post-adjudication process and is open to defendants who have committed eligible offenses and are accepted after a screening process. The program is conducted in conformance with state drug court statutes and complies with applicable laws involving the assessment of fines, fees court costs, and probation fees. The program receives staff and funding from the Department of Community Corrections and collection of court fees.

The members of the drug court program team include prosecuting attorney, public defender, defense counsel, DDC staff and local court staff. They have been consulted for purposes of scheduling, to sure that the necessary resources are available and to avoid conflicts with other court programs and responsibilities in which team members may require to participate.

Juvenile Drug Court Program: The 17th Judicial District Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) is a post-adjudication program that serves medium to high risk youths between the ages of 13 and 17, excluding violent offenders and sex offenders. The 17th JDC is a four-phase program followed with aftercare upon completion of the fourth phase. The program lasts for one year total. Participants' treatment needs are

assessed by the program coordinator and treatment staff at the time of admission into the program and continually assessed throughout the phases of treatment. Sanctions are issued by the Circuit Judge based upon the participant's compliance during the treatment phases. Intensive supervision is provided by the probation/juvenile drug court coordinator. Participants receive court reviews at a minimum of once per month.

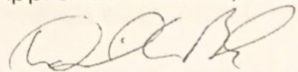
The 17th JDC program, policies, and practices are in compliance with A.C.A. Section 16-98-303(a) and A.C.A. Section 16-10-139(a) and all applicable laws involving the assessment of juvenile court costs and probation services fees, including A.C.A Section 9-27-367, Court costs, fees and fines and A.C.A. Section 16-13-326 Circuit Court Juvenile Funds.

JDC Team members include: Juvenile Drug Coordinator/probation officer, the Circuit Judge, substance abuse treatment providers, public defenders, prosecutors and other juvenile officers. Team members participate in staffings and in hearings to ensure that all available resources are used in a timely fashion to meet the needs of the participants and their families. Treatment is provided by Mid-South Health Systems which is licensed by the Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

With state funds a Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator was hired by the Court. Drug tests are paid for by juvenile court fees. The Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator or his/her designee enters data on performance measures on each juvenile drug court participant into Contexte.

the same subject matter division as the case being assigned. In the event all judges elect to recuse from a case, the administrative judge shall in writing notify the Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court that assignment of a special judge is required.

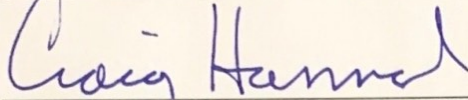
Approved and respectfully submitted,



12/15/2020

JUDGE DANIEL BROCK DATE

JUDGE MARK PATE DATE



12/15/2020

JUDGE CRAIG HANNAH DATE

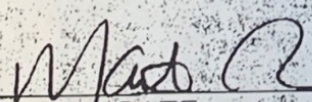
Juvenile Transfer Hearings: When a petition to transfer a criminal charge is filed under Arkansas Code Annotated Section 9-27-318, this judicial district agrees to have the transfer hearing conducted in the juvenile division of the circuit court. If the juvenile division of the circuit court denies the petition, the case shall remain in the original criminal division of the circuit court. If the juvenile's criminal charges are transferred and converted into delinquency charges under Arkansas Code Annotation section 9-27-318, the case will then remain in the juvenile division.

Recusals: In the event a judge elects to recuse from a case, such judge shall in writing notify the administrative judge of such recusal. The administrative judge shall assign the case, with preference for such assignment being, to a judge who hears cases in the same subject matter division as the case being assigned. In the event all judges elect to recuse from a case, the administrative judge shall in writing notify the Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court that assignment of a special judge is required.

Approved and respectfully submitted,

JUDGE DANIEL BROCK

DATE



JUDGE MARK PATE

12-15-2020

DATE

JUDGE CRAIG HANNAH

DATE