

Supreme Court of Kentucky

2018-19

IN RE: Authorization for the Reassignment of Pending Cases as Necessary or Convenient in the Family Court Divisions of the 28th, 54th, and 55th Judicial Circuits

The Supreme Court of Kentucky certified the need for additional circuit court divisions in the 28th Judicial Circuit (Lincoln, Pulaski, and Rockcastle counties), the 54th Judicial Circuit (Boone and Gallatin counties), and the 55th Judicial Circuit (Bullitt county).

The Kentucky General Assembly responded by and through the enactment of 2018 HB 348. The bill created new circuit judgeships in each of the above-referenced judicial circuits and requested that each new judgeship be designated by the Supreme Court as a family division under Section 112(6) of the Kentucky Constitution. The terms of the new judgeships will be effective January 7, 2019.

The Supreme Court has designated Division 4 of the 28th Judicial Circuit, Division 4 of the 54th Judicial Circuit, and Division 3 of the 55th Judicial Circuit as family court divisions. The judges for these newly created divisions were elected in November 2018.

In light of the foregoing and in the event the need arises in any of the above-referenced circuits to reassign family court cases currently pending or filed prior to January 7, 2019, to the judge of the newly created family court division in order to equalize the workload:

The Chief Justice HEREBY FINDS that good cause exists under SCR 1.040(4)(c) to reassign pending cases to equalize the workload and expedite the disposition of pending litigation in the circuit, and HEREBY AUTHORIZES the judge(s) in the family court divisions of the 28th, 54th, and 55th Judicial Circuits to reassign cases as necessary or convenient.

This Order applies only to cases pending as of the effective date of this Order or filed prior to January 7, 2019; thereafter, cases shall be distributed, assigned, and maintained in accordance with SCR 1.040(3) and (4).

Further, the 28th, 54th, and 55th Judicial Circuits shall take steps, prior to January 7, 2019, to provide notice to lawyers, litigants, and court personnel of newly-created dockets and case reassignment, if applicable, and shall, as expeditiously as possible, revise their local rules accordingly pursuant to SCR 1.040(3)(a).

This Order is entered under the authority granted to the Chief Justice under Section 110(5)(b) to perform all necessary administrative functions relating to the court.

This Order shall be effective upon entry.

Entered this 12th day of December 2018.


CHIEF JUSTICE