

Juvenile Dependency Application
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
Court Appointed Attorney Registry
2025



NEW APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Attorney:

Thank you for your interest in applying for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Conflict Attorney Registry, which is comprised of several category-specific Court Appointed Attorney Registries (collectively and individually referred to as the “Registry”). Please be aware that there are three phases to the application process:

- Review and approval of the application by the Chief Judge or his or her designee(s)
- Entering into a contract with the Justice Administrative Commission; and
- Being placed on the Court Appointed Registry which is maintained and administered by the Palm Beach County Clerk and Comptroller’s Office.

Due to the administrative time used in the management of the Registry, applications are only accepted from April 1 – April 15. **THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSIONS.** Please be aware that changes to Registry categories may only be made during that application period. Further, if you are removed from the Registry during the year, you will NOT be able to seek reinstatement until the next application period. Please read all information below before completing and submitting your application.

A. **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

1. In order to be included on the Registry you must, at minimum:
 - a. Be a member in good standing with the Florida Bar;
 - b. Have been a member of the Florida Bar for at least five years;
 - c. Meet the necessary CLE and case experience requirements for each Registry you are applying for;
 - d. Have an office in Palm Beach County;
 - e. Agree to provide the Court with certain information on an ongoing basis;
 - f. Submit a completed application and obtain approval from Court Administration; and
 - g. Complete a contract with the Justice Administrative Commission (“JAC”).

These requirements are discussed in further detail below.

B. APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. As part of a completed application, you must submit:
 - a. A completed Court Appointed Attorney Application (Part I).
 - b. A completed Court Appointed Attorney General Registry Supplement (Part II) along with any supporting documentation.
 - c. A completed Attorney Certification Form (Part III).
 - d. A completed Requested Registry Categories section (Part IV) along with a copy of a Florida Bar print-out showing that you have completed the required CLE courses and documentation proving that you have the required case experience (such as print-outs from the clerk’s office, judgments, commitments, etc.) for each category you are requesting to be placed on. The CLE and case experience requirements for each Registry are listed on the Requested Registry Category Information Page. **Your application will not be considered without this documentation.**
2. By submitting your application, you are certifying that you have read and are familiar with the Policies and Procedures for Appointment of Counsel found in Administrative Orders 2.603 and 2.604, which can be found on the Circuit’s website at www.15thcircuit.com, as well as sections 27.40, 27.425, 27.5304, and 27.5305, Florida Statutes.
3. Processing of the application may take up to 8 weeks.
 - a. The application is reviewed by a committee and approved by the Chief Judge or his or her designee(s).
 - b. Once the application is reviewed and approved by the Chief Judge or his or her designee, you will receive a letter from Court Administration which will either list the Registries and locations approved or will list the deficiencies which must be remedied in order for the application review process to continue. Failure to remedy the deficiencies will result in the application being rejected.
 - c. Once approved, the attorney must sign a contract with the Justice Administrative Commission (“JAC”).

C. APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

1. Conflict case appointments are randomly chosen by a computerized program maintained by the Clerk’s office and placement on Registry does not guarantee appointments.
2. Court Administration makes no representations as to the number of cases in which you may be appointed. The number of available cases (i.e. those in which the Office of Public Defender and/or the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel cannot provide representation) and the number of attorneys included on the Registry for each category will impact the frequency of appointments.
3. Your failure to accept appointments for any reason (e.g. rejection of the case, unavailability etc.) may result in you being removed from the Registry. If you are removed from the Registry, you will have to file a new application to be reinstated.

D. REQUIRED NOTIFICATION INFORMATION

1. You must immediately (within twenty-four hours) notify Court Administration if there is any change in your status with the Florida Bar (e.g. your license becomes inactive).
2. You must notify Court Administration if you become the subject of any disciplinary action instituted by the Florida Bar or have a legal malpractice case filed against you within seven days of the filing of the complaint, order, or other charging document.
3. You must immediately (within twenty-four hours) notify Court Administration if you become the subject of a criminal investigation or have criminal charges against filed against you.
4. Failure to comply with these notification provisions may result in your immediate removal from the Registry.

E. **JAC CONTRACT INFORMATION**

After being approved by Court Administration, you must sign a contract with the Justice Administrative Commission (“JAC”) no later than (30) days from the date of approval. JAC is the entity which pays the court appointed attorney's fees and costs. JAC contracts can be found at: www.justiceadmin.org. If you do not sign the JAC contract within the time frame listed above, you may not be added to the Registry.

F. **CONTACT INFORMATION**

1. You must maintain a valid email address and must provide notice to Court Administration, to the Clerk, and to the JAC upon any change to your address, email address or telephone number.
2. Failure to comply with the terms of the JAC contract or to notify Court Administration, the Clerk, and the JAC of any changes to your contact information may result in your removal from the Registry.
3. All attorneys on the Registry agree to accept correspondence through e-mail.

G. **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Parts I through IV of the Court Appointed Attorney Application are to be **emailed only** to:

CAD-AttorneyWheel-2@pbcgov.org

This inbox is for Juvenile Dependency and Other Children’s Civil (Special Needs) Conflict Attorneys

**2025 Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
Court Appointed Attorney Application**



PART I

(You must fill out and return all applicable application pages)

FULL NAME: _____

FLORIDA BAR NUMBER & YEAR ADMITTED: _____

OTHER STATES IN WHICH ADMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW: _____

PRIMARY OFFICE ADDRESS (as listed with The Florida Bar): _____

PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFICE ADDRESS (if different): _____

I agree to meet with 15th Judicial Circuit Court Appointed clients my Palm Beach County Office and will not require the client to travel outside Palm Beach County **(please initial)**:

_____ YES _____

I agree to meet with 15th Judicial Circuit Court appointed clients at a corrections facility (for adult criminal and juvenile cases) or at a residential care facility (for guardianship cases) and to accept phone calls from the clients **(please initial)**:

_____ YES _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FACSIMILE NUMBER: _____

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE TERMS SET FORTH IN THE THREE (3) PAGE INSTRUCTION SHEET AND ON THIS INFORMATION SHEET. FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN MY REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTRY.

Signature of Attorney

Date

PART II



2025 Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
Court Appointed Attorney General Registry Supplement

1. In the last 10 years, has any trial or appellate court found that you rendered ineffective assistance of counsel through a Florida Rule of Criminal Rule 3.850, Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.851, or other equivalent state or federal hearing?

Yes No

If YES, list all cases, including style of case, judge, and opposing counsel. Also, for each instance, please provide any explanation or circumstance you deem necessary or important to consider in further review of your application.

Four horizontal lines for providing case details.

2. In the last 10 years, have you been the subject of any disciplinary proceedings initiated by the Florida Bar or the Bar of any other jurisdiction?

Yes No

If YES, list all proceedings and the outcome. Also, for each instance, please provide any explanation or circumstance you deem necessary or important to consider in further review of your application.

Four horizontal lines for providing case details.

3. In the last 10 years, has any trial court replaced you with another attorney after conducting a hearing pursuant to Nelson v. State, 274 So. 2d 256 (Fla. 4th DCA 1973) or other equivalent state or federal hearing?

Yes No

If YES, list all cases, including style of case, judge, and opposing counsel. Also, for each instance, please provide any explanation or circumstance you deem necessary or important to consider in further review of your application.

<hr/> Signature of Attorney	<hr/> Date
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PART III



2025 Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court Appointed Attorney Registry

ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION

NAME: _____ FBN: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

In accordance with §27.40(3)(a), *Florida Statutes*, to be included on a Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court Appointed Attorney Registry, I hereby certify:

1. I meet any minimum requirements established by the Chief Judge and by general law for court appointment; and
2. I am available to represent indigent defendants in cases requiring court appointment of private counsel; and
3. I am willing to abide by the terms of the Justice Administrative Commission Contract for Services; and
4. I further certify to the best of my knowledge and belief, all statements contained in my Court Appointed Attorney Application and herein are true, correct, complete, and made in good faith. I understand any omissions, falsifications, misstatements or misrepresentations above may disqualify me for consideration. If I am accepted for installation on any Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Registry and enter into a contract with the Justice Administrative Commission I understand any omissions, falsifications, misstatements or misrepresentations later discovered to have been made by me herein may be grounds for dismissal. I am required to adhere to the contract, to any applicable policies and administrative orders of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, and any policies and procedures of the Justice Administrative Commission (www.JusticeAdmin.org).
5. I agree to meet with 15th Judicial Circuit Court appointed clients at my Palm Beach County office. For appointed clients who are incarcerated, I agree to meet with them at the corrections facility. For appointed clients who are at a residential care facility, I agree to meet with them at the facility. I further agree to accept phone calls from the court appointed clients.
6. I agree to attend at least one meeting per year as scheduled by the Administrative Judge of Juvenile unless excused by the Administrative Judge as well as participate in the monthly juvenile division meeting or at a minimum be responsible for the information contained in the meeting minutes.
7. I agree to read and respond to emails that are sent in regards to juvenile matters from Judiciary and/or Court Administration personnel.
8. I agree to review and sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) relating to the handling of juvenile crossover matters.

9. I agree to provide 30 days written notice to **CAD-AttorneyWheel-2@pbcgov.org** if I wish to be removed from a Registry. I agree that once removed from the court appointed list, I must file a new application to be reinstated.
10. I agree to provide written notice via email to **CAD-AttorneyWheel-2@pbcgov.org** within twenty-four hours if my status with the Florida Bar changes. I agree to provide notice to the same email if I become the subject of any disciplinary action instituted by the Florida Bar or have a legal malpractice case filed against me within seven days of the filing of the complaint, order or other charging document. I also agree to provide immediate (within twenty-four hours) notice via the same email address if I become the subject of a criminal investigation or have criminal charges filed against me. I understand that my failure to comply with these notification provisions may result in my immediate removal from the Registry.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE



PART IV - REQUESTED REGISTRY CATEGORIES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

SHADED AREA: Place a check mark or an X in the shaded area at the top of the page next to the name of the category of cases for which you are applying. Each category is on a separate page. Some categories have multiple categories. **If placed on the Registry for a category, you can receive an appointment in any one of the types of cases listed for that category.**

LOCATIONS: Place a check mark or an X next to each courthouse location where you agree to receive appointments.

CASE CODES: You will also see case codes corresponding to the categories. The case codes are required by the Justice Administrative Commission.

INFORMATION PAGE: Complete the information page by placing your initials next to each affirmation and by providing the requested case information. If you cannot affirm the statement, you will not meet the minimum qualifications for the Registry. Only submit the information pages for the Registry category you seek appointments.



DEPENDENCY/TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES	CASE CODES
Dependency	849
Termination of Parental Rights – Ch. 39, F.S.	858
SUPPORTING QUESTIONS	PLACE INITIALS AFFIRMING TO STATEMENT
I am a member in good standing with the Florida Bar	
I have an office in Palm Beach County where I meet Clients	
I have been a member of the Florida Bar for at least 5 years or I was previously employed by DCF, GAL, Legal Aid Juvenile Program, or OCCCRC practicing in dependency	
I have completed at least 10 hours of dependency CLE within the 24 months preceding the date of this application. (provide print-out.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been attorney of record for at least three dependency cases or have assisted with at least four termination of parental rights trials, at least two of which were filed within the past 3 years <li style="text-align: center;">OR • I have observed at least 30 hours of juvenile dependency hearings (which includes at least six shelter hearings, three dependency trials, and one termination of parental rights trial) within the last 3 years <li style="text-align: center;">OR • I will accomplish one of the above by November 1, 2025. • Attach list of cases, or supporting documentation, with the following information: Case name, case number, approximate date of trial, name of opposing counsel, name of judge, name of any co-counsel and the role that counsel played in the trial <p>If you do not have supporting documentation yet but will by November 1, 2025, please indicate as such when emailing your application and provide the supporting documentation to the designated email address as it becomes available. Failure to provide documentation by November 1, 2025 will result in your removal from the Registry.</p>	

**I agree to accept appointments and make appearances at the following
courthouse locations**

(failure to check off locations will default to all locations):

West Palm Beach

Delray Beach

Belle Glade

DEPENDENCY & TPR APPEALS

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES	CASE CODE
Dependency Appeals	881
TPR Appeals	859
SUPPORTING QUESTIONS	PLACE INITIALS AFFIRMING TO STATEMENT
I am a member in good standing with the Florida Bar	
I have an office in Palm Beach County where I meet Clients	
I have been a member of the Florida Bar for at least 5 years or I was previously employed by DCF, GAL, Legal Aid Juvenile Program, or OCCCRC practicing in dependency	
I have completed at least 10 hours of dependency CLE within the 24 months preceding the date of this application. (provide print-out.)	
I have completed at least 3 appeals in dependency or termination of rights appeals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two of which were filed within the past 5 years • Attach list of cases, or supporting documentation, with the following information: Case name, case number, application citation of opinion, name of opposing counsel name of judge/judges, name of any co-counsel and the role that counsel played 	

OTHER CHILDREN’S CIVIL

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES	CASE CODE
CINS/FINS – Ch. 984, F.S.	873
Emancipation - Fla. Stat. Section 743.015	880
Parental Notification of Abortion Act - Chapter 390	906
SUPPORTING QUESTIONS	PLACE INITIALS AFFIRMING TO STATEMENT
I am a member in good standing with the Florida Bar	
My primary office where I meet clients is located in Palm Beach County	
I have been a member of the Florida Bar for at least 5 years or I was previously employed by DCF, GAL, Legal Aid Juvenile Program, or OCCCRC practicing in dependency	
I have completed the ACLU’s Representing Minors in Judicial Bypass Proceedings OR have taken at least 10 hours of dependency CLE within the 24 months preceding the date of this application. (provide printout)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been attorney of records or acted as second chair in at least two judicial bypass cases within the last five years OR • I have been counsel of record in at least six dependency cases, through to their conclusion within the last five years • Attach list of cases, or supporting documentation, with the following information: Case name, case number, approximate date of trial, name of opposing counsel, name of judge, name of any co-counsel and the role that counsel played in the trial 	

<p>I agree to accept appointments and make appearances at the following courthouse locations (failure to check off locations will default to all locations):</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/> West Palm Beach	<input type="checkbox"/> Delray Beach	<input type="checkbox"/> Belle Glade

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- PURSUANT TO s.39.01305, F.S.

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES	CASE CODES
Dependency	849
Termination of Parental Rights – Ch. 39, F.S.	858
SUPPORTING QUESTIONS	PLACE INITIALS AFFIRMING TO STATEMENT
I am a member in good standing with the Florida Bar	
I have an office in Palm Beach County where I meet Clients	
I have been a member of the Florida Bar for at least 5 years or I was previously employed by DCF, GAL, Legal Aid Juvenile Program, or OCCCRC practicing in dependency	
A) I have at least one (1) year of experience representing children in dependency cases within the last five (5) years; or B) I am currently supervised by an attorney that has at least one (1) year of experience representing children in dependency cases; or C) I have observed at least thirty (30) hours of hearings in dependency cases including at least one (1) shelter hearing, one (1) dependency adjudicatory hearing, one (1) judicial review hearing, one (1) hearing pursuant to either rule 8.350 or 8.355, Fla.R.Juv.P. and one (1) termination of parental rights trial.	
Within the last two (2) years I have attended at least ten (10) hours of continuing legal education devoted to the legal needs of children at least five (5) of which were devoted to representation of children with special needs or disabilities and at least one (1) hour of which was devoted to ethics related to the representation of children (provide printout) or, if I have not, I will complete the requisite CLE requirements within 3 months of being placed on the registry.	
I have reviewed the Florida Guidelines of Practice for Lawyers Who Represent Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases.	

**I agree to accept appointments and make appearances at the following courthouse locations
(Failure to check off locations will default to all locations):**

West Palm Beach
 Delray Beach
 Belle Glade