



THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COLUMBIA, DIXIE, HAMILTON, LAFAYETTE, MADISON, SUWANNEE AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

JOHN WESTON PEACH
CIRCUIT JUDGE

July 30, 1987

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JASPER, FLORIDA 32052
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The Honorable David F. Patterson
Chairman
Judicial Administration Section
Pinellas County Judicial Building
545 First Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FILED

SID J. AVONTE

NOV 16 1987

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

By _____
Deputy Clerk

Dear Judge Patterson:

Thank you for soliciting my comments on the proposed rule concerning Title IV D Hearing Officers.

I feel that I am correct in stating that the judges of the Third Circuit are unanimously opposed to the "special masters" concept. We have not had any problems to date that warrant masters, rather than judges, hearing Title IV D support actions.

Support actions, be it child support or alimony, are very important, emotional areas and should not be lightly regarded nor shuttled off to a non-judicial hearing officer.

If funds are to be expended to upgrade support enforcement, I strongly feel that additional circuit judges would be far more economically prudent and effective than the establishment of many "hearing officers".

In comment on the wording of the proposed rule, if it must be adopted, I suggest that the word "may" be substituted for the word "shall" in paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e).

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Peach
Chief Judge

JWP/er

xc: All Judges, Third Judicial Circuit