

**Rhode Island Family Court
Administrative Order No. 2022-01**

MAGISTRATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

In accordance with the administrative and supervisory responsibilities conferred on the Chief Judge of the Family Court under R.I. Gen Laws § 8-10-14 and pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws § 8-10-3.2 and R.I. Gen Laws § 8-10-3.1 which authorize the Chief Judge of the Family Court to appoint Magistrates and a General Magistrate, it is hereby ordered that whenever an vacancy for the position of a Magistrate or General Magistrate of the Family Court becomes available, the Chief Judge of the Family Court or the Chief Judge's designee ("Chief Judge") shall appoint a three (3) member Magistrate Selection Committee ("Committee") to solicit and review applications from candidates for the vacancy and to make recommendations to the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge shall also appoint a Chairperson of the Committee.

Members of the Committee shall serve until such time as a candidate is appointed, qualified, and accepts the Oath of Office. The Committee shall carefully review each candidate's application and other evidence of good character, judgment, legal ability, temperament, and commitment to equal justice. The Committee shall also consider written comments from the members of the judiciary, the bar, and the public.

The Committee will then compile a list of candidates to be interviewed by the Committee. Copies of the list of interviewees shall be forwarded to the Rhode Island State Police with a request that they conduct a background check and report their findings in writing to the Committee.

After receiving the completed reports, the Committee shall meet again to review the reports and consider the qualifications of the various candidates. The Committee shall then compile a list of three (3) to five (5) highly qualified candidates and submit that list to the Chief Judge.

This Order is effective as of December 16, 2022.

Date: December 16, 2022

/S/

Michael B. Forte
Chief Judge