

RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 96-1

RE: HOURS OF COURT

Due to the continued increase in both filings as well as the pending caseload in all counties, it is necessary to increase the hours that the court is in session. Commencing March 1, 1996, Family Court shall sit daily from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. All calendars in all counties will be heard during these hours.

DATE

March 10, 1996

Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.  
Chief Judge

Note RE:

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In late 1994, the Family Court requested that the National Center for State Courts ("National Center") conduct an evaluation of court operations. After conducting site visits, collecting and analyzing data and preparing reports, the National Center in September 1995, made written recommendations to the Family Court for improvements within the limits of existing resources. One of the recommendations made by the National Center was to change the hours of court during which the court is in session. The National Center recommended that court hearings commence promptly at 9:00 a.m. rather than 9:30 a.m. This modification to court hours in conjunction with other changes to court operations was suggested by the National Center to assist the Family Court in its efforts to achieve more timely case dispositions, reduced waiting times and fewer appearances for attorneys and litigants.

In addition to the recommendations made by the National Center, recent Family Court caseload statistics indicate that the Court must implement changes to its operations in order to meet the challenge of disposing of an increase in both court filings and pending caseloads in all counties throughout the state. Therefore, pursuant to the administrative authority vested in me by RIGL Section 8-10-14, I hereby order that the hours of court be modified in accordance with the attached Administrative Order 96-1 to accommodate an increasing caseload and to implement the recommendations of the National Center.