

Rhode Island Family Court  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 96-14

RE: FAMILY COURT MASTERS

Family Court Masters when specifically authorized by the Chief Judge of the Family Court may hear those matters as set forth in Rhode Island General Laws chapter 11 of title 15, section 8-10-4, chapter 1 of title 14, chapter 8 of title 15, chapter 11 of title 40, chapter 5 of title 40.1, chapter 16 of title 15, chapter 11.1 of 15 as well as those matters on the domestic abuse prevention calendar and the nominal calendar. Masters may hear all motions, pre-trial conferences, arraignments of juvenile offenders, probable cause hearings and review of all such matters including but not limited to the temporary placement, custody, disposition and adoption of children and the taking of testimony in conducting all hearings in connection therewith.

Masters are authorized to:

- (1) To regulate all proceedings before him or her;
- (2) To do all acts and take all measures necessary or proper for the efficient performance of his or her duties;
- (3) To require the production before him or her of books, papers, vouchers, documents and writings;
- (4) To rule upon the admissibility of evidence;
- (5) To issue subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses, to put witnesses on oath, to examine them and to call parties to the proceeding and examine them upon oath;

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(6) To adjudicate a person in contempt and to order him imprisoned for not more than seventy-two (72) hours, pending review by a justice of the court, for failure to appear in response to a summons or for refusal to answer questions or produce evidence or for behavior disrupting a proceeding;

(7) To adjudicate a party in contempt and to order him imprisoned for not more than seventy-two hours (72), pending review by a justice of the court, for failure to comply with a pending order to provide support or to perform any other act;

(8) To issue a capias and/or body attachment upon the failure of a party or witness to appear after having been properly served and, should the family court not be in session, the person apprehended may be detained at the adult correctional institution, if an adult, or at the Rhode Island Training School for Youth, if a child, until the next session of said Family Court.

10/25/06  
Date

Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.  
Chief Judge