

Rule 1.02 | DIVISIONS OF THE COURT

(a) The Middle District of Florida consists of those counties and places of holding court as designated in 28 U.S.C. Section 89.

(b) The District shall be divided into five Divisions to be known as the Jacksonville, Ocala, Orlando, Tampa and Ft. Myers Divisions, as follows:

(1) The Jacksonville Division shall consist of the following counties: Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee and Union. The place of holding court shall be Jacksonville.

(2) The Ocala Division shall consist of the following counties: Citrus, Lake, Marion and Sumter. The place of holding court shall be Ocala.

(3) The Orlando Division shall consist of the following counties: Brevard, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia. The place of holding court shall be Orlando.

(4) The Tampa Division shall consist of the following counties: Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota. The place of holding court shall be Tampa.

(5) The Fort Myers Division shall consist of the following counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry and Lee. The place of holding court shall be Fort Myers.

(c) All civil proceedings of any kind shall be instituted in that Division encompassing the county or counties having the greatest nexus with the cause, giving due regard to the place where the claim arose and the residence or principal place of business of the parties.

(d) All criminal proceedings of any kind shall be docketed and tried in that Division encompassing the county or counties in which the alleged offense or offenses were committed; provided, however, an indictment returned in any Division shall be valid regardless of the county or counties within the District in which the alleged offense or offenses were committed.

(e) The Court may, within its discretion, or upon good cause shown by any interested party, order that any case, civil or criminal, be transferred from one Division to any other Division for trial, or from one place of holding court to another place of holding court in the same Division.