

## **RULE 2.250. TIME STANDARDS FOR TRIAL AND APPELLATE COURTS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**(a) Time Standards.** The following time standards are hereby established as a presumptively reasonable time period for the completion of cases in the trial and appellate courts of this state. It is recognized that there are cases that, because of their complexity, present problems that cause reasonable delays. However, most cases should be completed within the following time periods:

### **(1) Trial Court Time Standards.**

#### **(A) Criminal.**

Felony -180 days (arrest to final disposition)

Misdemeanor -90 days (arrest to final disposition)

#### **(B) Civil.**

Jury cases -18 months (filing to final disposition)

Non-jury cases -12 months (filing to final disposition)

Small claims -95 days (filing to final disposition)

#### **(C) Domestic Relations.**

Uncontested -90 days (filing to final disposition)

Contested -180 days (filing to final disposition)

#### **(D) Probate.**

Uncontested, no federal estate tax return -12 months (from issuance of letters of administration to final discharge)

Uncontested, with federal estate tax return -12 months (from the return's due date to final discharge)

Contested -24 months (from filing to final discharge)



(E) Juvenile Delinquency.

Disposition hearing -120 days (filing of petition or child being taken into custody to hearing)

Disposition hearing (child detained) -36 days (date of detention to hearing)

(F) Juvenile Dependency.

Disposition hearing (child sheltered) -88 days (shelter hearing to disposition)

Disposition hearing (child not sheltered) -120 days (filing of petition for dependency to hearing)

(G) Permanency Proceedings.

Permanency hearing -12 months (date child is sheltered to hearing)

**(2) Supreme Court and District Courts of Appeal Time Standards:** Rendering a decision -within 180 days of either oral argument or the submission of the case to the court panel for a decision without oral argument, except in juvenile dependency or termination of parental rights cases, in which a decision should be rendered within 60 days of either oral argument or submission of the case to the court panel for a decision without oral argument.

**(3) Florida Bar Referee Time Standards:** Report of referee - within 180 days of being assigned to hear the case

**(4) Circuit Court Acting as Appellate Court:**

Ninety days from submission of the case to the judge for review



**(b) Reporting of Cases.** The time standards require that the following monitoring procedures be implemented:

All pending cases in circuit and district courts of appeal exceeding the time standards shall be listed separately on a report submitted quarterly to the chief justice. The report shall include for each case listed the case number, type of case, case status (active or inactive for civil cases and contested or uncontested for domestic relations and probate cases), the date of arrest in criminal cases, and the original filing date in civil cases. The Office of the State Courts Administrator will provide the necessary forms for submission of this data. The report will be due on the 15th day of the month following the last day of the quarter.

