

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 06 - 03

(Traffic Offenses of Juveniles Aged 16 – 18)

WHEREAS, D.C. Code § 11-1101 (a) and (a)(13) (2005) provides that the Family Court of the District of Columbia shall be assigned and have original jurisdiction over proceedings in which a child, as defined in § 16-2301, is alleged to be delinquent, neglected, or in need of jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the definition of child as set forth in D.C. Code § 16-2301 (3) (2005) excludes, “an individual who is 16 years of age or older and charged with a traffic offense;” and

WHEREAS, juveniles charged with Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and related charges are often also charged with a corresponding adult traffic offenses that arise from the same underlying facts; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Superior Court is one of general jurisdiction with no jurisdictional bar to hearing a case in one division of the Superior Court that originated in another division, so long as the case has a rational nexus to a subject matter within the responsibility of the division in which it is to be heard and the transfer does not violate a statute or rule of the court; and

WHEREAS, the adjudication of juvenile charges and related adult traffic charges before the same Family Court judge conserves judicial and staff resources, avoids inconsistent judgments and better serves juveniles before the Court;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED, that to the extent practical and feasible, Family Court judges shall hear adult traffic cases involving a juvenile aged 16 to 18 in conjunction with the related juvenile case when the cases arise from the same underlying facts, and it is further

ORDERED, that to the extent not inconsistent with the juvenile rules, adult traffic cases heard in the Family Court will be governed by relevant Superior Court rules governing proceedings in the Traffic Branch of the Criminal Division.

SO ORDERED.

Date: _____

Rufus G. King, III
Chief Judge

Copies to:

Judges

Magistrate Judges

Executive Officer

Clerk of the Court

Director, Family Court

Director, Criminal Division

Director, Court Social Services

Office of Attorney General, D.C.

Public Defender Service

Metropolitan Police Department

Librarian, D.C. Superior Court

Family Court Trial Lawyers Association

Superior Court Trial Lawyers Association

Daily Washington Law Reporter