

**NUMBERING SYSTEMS FOR LOUISIANA FAMILY AND
DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURTS AND JUVENILE COURTS**

TITLE IV

Forty-Second Judicial District Court

Parish of DeSoto

Chapter	35	ALIMONY AND CHILD SUPPORT MATTERS ANCILLARY TO CIVIL DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS
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Rule	35.0	Use of Hearing Officers
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42nd JDC	USE OF HEARING OFFICERS
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Amended effective
November 10, 2014.

1. Pursuant to R.S. 46:236.5, R.S. 46:2135(I), Title 9, and applicable articles of the Louisiana Civil Code and Louisiana Children's Code, this Court hereby implements an expedited process for the establishment, modification and enforcement of support obligations by authorizing and directing a hearing officer, appointed by majority vote of the entire Court, to hear support and support related and other domestic, juvenile, and family matters.
2. Domestic and family matters shall include divorce and all issues ancillary to a divorce proceeding; all child related issues such as paternity, filiation, custody, visitation, and support in non-material cases; all protective orders filed in accordance with R.S. 46:2131 et seq., R.S. 46:2151 et seq., and the Children's Code and all injunctions filed in accordance with R.S. 9:361, 371, and 372 and Code of Civil Procedure Articles 3601 et seq., which involve personal abuse, terrorizing, stalking, or harassment; and enforcement of orders in any of these matters, including contempt of court.
3. The entire Court, by majority vote, shall fix the salary of the hearing officer and any such other personnel hired and employed to implement this procedure.
4. Such hearing officer shall have authority to perform and shall perform any and all duties assigned to the officer by a judge designated by the Court which are consistent with R.S. 46:236.5 as it presently exists or as supplemented or amended in the future. The Court further authorizes the hearing officer to hear and dispose of all matters pertaining to protective orders.
5. The hearing officer shall act as a finder of fact and shall make recommendations to the Court concerning the above referenced domestic, juvenile, and family matters. The recommendation may be transmitted in open court, in chambers, or by mail.
6. Any party to the proceedings may file an exception to the findings of fact or law of the hearing officer within 72 hours from the date of the hearing. The 72-hour period referred to herein shall commence running at 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing and shall exclude Saturday, Sunday, and other legal holidays.
7. Should any party file an exception to the findings of the hearing officer, the Court shall schedule a contradictory hearing before a judge for the taking of additional evidence if in the Court's discretion it is determined that additional information is needed. If no exception to the hearing officer's recommendations is timely filed, an Order shall be signed by the judge, which shall be a final judgment and be appealable to the Court of Appeal.

Forty-Second Judicial District Court
