

FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA

**Department of Revenue, on Behalf of Madison T. Adams v. Owen
Harris**

No. 1D2025-0809 (Fla. 1st DCA Oct. 15, 2025) · No. 1D2025-0809 · Decided October 15, 2025

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL STATE OF FLORIDA

No. 1D2025-0809 _____
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, on behalf of MADISON T. ADAMS, Petitioner, v. OWEN
HARRIS, Respondent. _____ Petition for Writ of Certiorari—
Original Proceedings. October 15, 2025 PER CURIAM.

In this certiorari proceeding, the Department of Revenue, on behalf of Madison Adams, challenges an order approving the hearing officer’s recommendation to compel genetic testing to determine paternity of the minor child.

We agree with the Department that the circuit court erred in approving the hearing officer’s recommendation. The child support proceedings did not properly place paternity in controversy, and Respondent did not establish good cause for the testing. Fla. Fam. L. R. P. 12.360(a)(1), (2); Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.360(a)(1), (2); State, Dep’t of Revenue ex rel. Chambers v. Travis, 971 So.

2d 157, 162 (Fla. 1st DCA 2007); Florida Dep’t Revenue ex rel. Corbitt v. Alletag, 156 So. 3d 1110, 1112 (Fla. 1st DCA 2015). Even if paternity was in controversy and good cause was shown, the hearing officer had no authority to address a contested paternity matter. Alletag, 156 So. 3d at 1113 n.2; State v. Ceasar, 188 So. 3d 989, 991 n.1 (Fla. 1st DCA 2016); Fla. Fam.

L. R. P. 12.491(e). We GRANT the petition for writ of certiorari and QUASH the order compelling genetic testing. ROBERTS, WINOKUR, and NORDBY, JJ., concur.
_____ Not final until disposition of any timely and authorized
motion under Fla. R. App. P. 9.330 or 9.331. _____ David C.
Bearden, Department of Revenue, Crestview; James Uthmeier, Attorney General, and Toni C.
Bernstein, Assistant Attorney General, Tallahassee, for Petitioner.

No appearance for Respondent. 2