

Existing law authorizes the judges of any judicial district court, by majority vote of the judges sitting en banc, to designate a certain division or section of court as a specialized division or section having criminal, civil, drug court, driving while intoxicated court, mental health court, violent crimes or homicides, or other specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

New law retains existing law and adds human trafficking court as an authorized division or section.

New law authorizes the presiding judge of the human trafficking court to be trained in issues of human trafficking and the support services available to victims.

New law requires all offenses involving commercial sexual exploitation to be transferred to the human trafficking section of the court and if it is determined by a judge, after a contradictory hearing that a case involves a victim in need of services, the following may apply:

- (1) The victim may be mandated to attend appropriate support services for victims of human trafficking, if available.
- (2) The victim shall be considered for a noncriminal disposition or dismissal of the case if the victim complies with mandated support services and the district attorney consents.

Existing law prohibits the court from adopting rules that may designate any division or section, without its consent, as a specialized division or section for a longer period than three years.

Effective Aug. 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 13:587.4(A) and (C); Adds R.S. 13:587.4(D))