

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

April 2, 2021

Friday



[Table of Contents](#)

1. **TPR Mediation Payment Policy**
2. **Restarting Civil Cases**
3. **Post-Pandemic Questionnaire**
4. **Mediator Statements**
5. **Senator Hassan Promotes LT Pilot**
6. **Non-Judicial Branch Trainings and Events**

To preserve the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the US and NH Constitutions, the Court will provide accessible, prompt, and efficient forums for the fair and independent administration of justice, with respect for the dignity of all we serve

TPR Mediation Payment Policy

Please note that moving forward TPR/VMA mediators can file a statement for payment for each *birth parent* that partakes in mediation. Questions about mediator payment can be directed to Patty Cole at pcole@courts.state.nh.us.

Restarting Civil Cases

The courts will be using the central referee process to handle the backlog of e-filed civil complaint cases. Once court staff receive their structuring conference dates, court staff will contact mediators to ask for their availability for the week after the structuring conference. After the structuring conference, court staff will reach out to mediators to let them know which slots have cases scheduled and which the mediator can free up. The court will also provide conference numbers for the mediators to use. Please refer to the email sent on 3/26 for additional information.

Post-Pandemic Questionnaire

The court is planning for post-COVID court practices and have created the following survey to capture people's opinions. The survey is 12 questions and should take about 10 minutes to complete. Thank you to those who have filled it out already: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/futureccpractices>

Mediator Statements

All questions on the status of mediator statements should be directed to Patty Cole at pcole@courts.state.nh.us. You will receive a faster response than if you contacted the courts.

Senator Hassan Promotes LT Pilot to Biden Administration

US Senator Maggie Hassan, in a letter to the Biden administration, praised New Hampshire's landlord tenant mediation pilot program, stating "We applaud the landlord-tenant mediation efforts which are already underway in our state through a pilot program within the Circuit Court system... We encourage HUD to pursue landlord-tenant mediation efforts at the federal level, using New Hampshire's pilot program as a model, in order to ensure that all Americans can remain safely and stably housed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond."

Non-Judicial Branch Trainings

Family Law Updates 2021

May TBD

This workshop is approved by FMCB for 3 hours of Legal Updates credit.

The workshop will review what mediators need to know about family law changes over the last 3 years and possible coming changes that would impact their practice, including:

- a. Changes in court forms and court rules, including fees after 5 hours;
- b. Updated FMCB Rules;
- c. Important Supreme Court cases in last 3 years;
- d. Legislation from '18, '19, & '20;
- e. Looking forward—pending legislation & changes in FMCB Rules. **This will include discussion of SB 16, revising the alimony statute.**

Family Mediation of New Hampshire

Email Honey Hastings at hhastings@familymediationnh.com for more information