

# The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

April 30, 2021

Friday (May Newsletter)



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## **Emergency Order and Information on Reopening**

Governor Sununu has removed many of the restrictions instituted because of the COVID-19 risks. In the coming weeks, the NHJB will follow the Governor in removing COVID-19 restrictions. I strongly encourage you to take a look at the most recent emergency order that went into effect on April 27<sup>th</sup> for information on the current court practices and information on the gradual restoration of in-person court operations. <https://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/orders/4-23-21-Nineteenth-Renewed-and-Amended-Emergency-Order-Governing-Courts-and-Committees.pdf>

## **Circuit Court Civil Mediation Agreement Form Clarification**

Please use the Agreement for Payments form to draft agreements for both small claims and civil cases in circuit court. The form provides notice to parties on exempt income and provides for electronic signatures: <https://www.courts.state.nh.us/forms/ecourt/nhjb-2857-de-AgreementforPayments.pdf>

## **Updated Insurance Information**

Divorce/Parenting mediators should submit updated professional liability insurance information to Patty Cole at [pcole@courts.state.nh.us](mailto:pcole@courts.state.nh.us)

## **TPR Mediation Payment Policy Version II**

Mediators may submit a statement for payment for each birth parent that attends a Termination of Parental Rights Mediation. Each statement for payment covers up to 12 hours of mediation for each birth parent. If a birth parent surrenders multiple children through the TPR mediation process, the mediator may bill for each birth parent-adoptive parent set. The mediator may be requested to explain the number of statements for payments submitted.

## **Resource Highlight**

A study commissioned by Mediation Achieving Results for Children, a non-profit in Missouri funded by a DHHS Access and Visitation grant, found that parties who attended remote mediation reported increased ease of communication and availability to attend sessions and decreased tensions as benefits of virtual mediation. The study also found that the same proportion of in-person and virtual mediations resulted in an agreement, while a greater portion of in-person mediations ended in no agreement, compared to virtual mediations.

## **Non-Judicial Branch Trainings**

### **Insurance: It isn't just about "Whole" or "Term"**

Thursday May 6, 2021 - noon to 1 pm

The NH Family Mediation Certification Board has approved this offering for 1 CEU credit in the "other" category. The topic of insurance during a mediation can be simple or complicated. Wait, it is ever simple? Often parties' eyes glaze over when they are asked if the life insurance listed on the Financial Affidavit is "whole" or "term." Are you comfortable to explore insurance topics during divorce mediation? What is the difference between policy owner, beneficiary, and insured? Join Sally Boyle in exploring the many facets of insurance. Registration fee is \$ 15.00 which includes a copy of Sally's book

To register, please email [susan@mediationpartnersne.com](mailto:susan@mediationpartnersne.com).  
Deadline is Monday May 3rd.

*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*