

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

July 1, 2021

Thursday



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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

Post-Pandemic Practices

End of Emergency Orders

The Judicial Branch's last emergency order ended on June 8th. The courts have resumed in-person operation. Mediations will remain remote until August 1st for Circuit Court cases. If you are a Superior Court mediator, you may mediate at the courthouse if (1) you and the parties agree to mediate in person and (2) the courthouse has space.

Circuit Court Administrative Order 2021-08: Electronic Signatures on Agreements Reached During Remote Mediation or Neutral Case Evaluation

To facilitate the continuance of remote mediations in paper case types, the Circuit Court issued Administrative Order 2021-08. Mediators may continue to request electronic signatures in documents for court cases that were referred to mediation. Mediators may also continue to collect electronic signatures using the email attestation method. For more information, please take a look at the administrative order:

<https://www.courts.state.nh.us/circuitcourt/adminorders/AdministrativeOrderCircuitCourt-2021-08.pdf>

After August 1st

ADR processes will be sorted into three categories: (1) remote (2) hybrid (3) transition back to in-person. For more detailed process information, please refer to the email sent on 6/8/21 by Patty Cole. If you have any comments or suggestions on the various processes, please email Margaret at mhuang@courts.state.nh.us.

Family Mediator for Coos and Grafton Counties

The ADR Office is currently accepting applications for certified family mediators to be assigned cases from the Family Divisions of Lancaster/Colebrook/Berlin Circuit Courts and Littleton/Haverhill Circuit Courts. Qualified applicants must be willing to travel to the above courts and mediate cases in-person. Applicants may also provide remote mediation if desired. Please fill out the attached application and submit it to the Office of mediation and Arbitration at mediation@courts.state.nh.us. Applications will be accepted until July 30, 2021.

Complex Family Docket Mediator

The ADR Office is currently accepting applications for certified family mediators to join the Family Division's Complex Trust Docket. Qualified applicants must have at least five (5) years of experience mediating family cases. Training in mental health, parenting coordination, and/or experience litigating divorce/parenting cases is advantageous. Please fill out the attached application and submit it to the Office of mediation and Arbitration at mediation@courts.state.nh.us. Applications will be accepted until July 30, 2021.

Divorce/Parenting Next Steps

Thank you to all the mediators who participated in the meeting on June 25, 2021 with case managers. Please reach out to your case manager to begin creating your mediation schedule for August 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021. The schedule for 2022 will be created through usual procedures.

Non-Judicial Branch Trainings

Buying/Selling/Refinancing Real Estate in Divorce: Just because you can, doesn't mean you should

July 27, 2021 12pm-1pm via Zoom

Learn more about the intricacies of distributing real estate as part of a divorce settlement. Presented by Amanda Reichert, Designated Real Estate Divorce Collaboration Specialist and Paul Descoteaux, Loan officer with RMS mortgage. \$15 registration fee includes books "House Selling Options During Divorce" and "Navigating Your Options Before Foreclosure" by Amanda Reichert. Approved by FMCB for 1 Credit "Other" Register at: susan@mediationpartnersne.com