

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

August 2, 2021 | Monday



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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

Mediation Questionnaire

If you are holding in-person mediations again, feel free to provide parties with the paper mediation questionnaires (<https://www.courts.state.nh.us/forms/nhjb-2091-dfps.pdf>). Please mail any completed paper questionnaires to One Granite Place. If you are holding remote mediations, please continue to use the survey monkey link (surveymonkey.com/r/NHMediation). We will consolidate data from both types of surveys at the office.

We also hope to post positive comments that parties submit about mediation or mediators to the ADR Professionals page of the Judicial Branch's new website. If you are not comfortable with positive comments about your mediations posted on the website, please let Margaret (mhuang@courts.state.nh.us) know.

Questionnaire Results

For the past few months, Denise, a hardworking employee for the Administrative Office of the Courts, has been diligently electronically entering paper mediation questionnaires. Denise has entered **over 3000 divorce/parenting mediation questionnaires**, the oldest of which are from 2014. Of these responses:

97.5% of people felt treated fairly and with respect
97.9% of people felt the mediator was impartial
92.4% said the mediator helped them explore different options
92.1% said they would use mediation again

Selected comments include:

- "Really helped me understand and agree with a good plan for our child"
- "very informative and made sure I clearly understood"
- "Amazing through this difficult process"
- "Actually made me laugh, helped break stress"
- "Kept discussions on track, came back to disputed issues when impasse occurred, gave both parties time to think."
- "The whole process was professional, caring and friendly"

Incredible job everyone.

If you are curious about your own stats, please email Patty (pcole@courts.state.nh.us) or Margaret (mhuang@courts.state.nh.us). We may not have questionnaire responses for you, but email and we can check.

Case Manager-Mediator Summit

It is official! The Case Manager-Mediator Summit will be held on **September 24, 2021 from 9am-3pm in person in Concord**. Lunch will be served. Please mark your calendars.

Thank you for your patience on this when we postponed and then ultimately cancelled the 2020 summit. We hope that the 2021 year summit will give us an opportunity to reflect on the past year and set our intentions for the next year, and catch up with colleagues. More details and an agenda to follow. If you have any questions or comments, please email Margaret at mhuang@courts.state.nh.us

Non-Judicial Branch Trainings

Alimony: the 2018 Statute and its 2021 Amendment

August 4, 2021, 3 hours

The alimony amendment was effective 7/9, when the governor signed it. It changes the percentage used in calculating alimony from 30% to 23%. The legislation also clarifies other parts of the alimony law. This workshop includes practical exercises using the amended statute. It is a hybrid course, available for either skills or updates credit. Sponsored by ACE.

Please email Honey Hastings at hhastings@familymediationnh.com for more information.