

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

October 10, 2023

Tuesday



Table of Contents

1. **Divorce/Parenting Mediator and Case Manager Summit**
2. **VMA Roundtable**
3. **Form Changes**
4. **Non-Judicial Branch Training**
5. **Post-Script**

Divorce/Parenting Summit – Thank you!

Thank you to those who attended the summit in September. We received great ideas on initiatives to explore and pursue in the coming months.

VMA Roundtable

The first VMA Mediator roundtable will be scheduled for **Thursday October 26th from 8:15am-9:30am**, to take place on Webex. Please come prepared to talk about the finding from the Harvard evaluation that “VMAs meet interests best when parents do most of the talking” and discuss strategies that can be used to increase parent participation in mediation.

Form Changes

Form changes effective now:

Number	Description	What's Changed
NHJB - 2052	Mediation Participation Agreement	Fee increase, Fund w/ Children Removed

Form changes under consideration and/or waiting approval: (DRAFT)

Number	Description	What's Changing
NHJB - 2625	Agreement to mediate (probate)	Unify forms
NHJB - 2171	Agreement to Mediate (Small Claims/Civil)	
NHJB - 2542	Notice of Intent to Mediate (VMA)	Based on feedback from the HNMCP evaluation, the judicial branch is considering consolidating the two forms needed to request VMA into one form
NHJB-3220	Mediation Summary for Voluntarily Mediated Adoption (VMA)	Based on feedback from the HNMCP evaluation, the judicial branch is considering creating a mediation summary form for VMAs to assist mediators in obtaining a pre-mediation summary from the parties.

LT Mediation – Update

We have received a fully executed agreement from HUD regarding the CPF Grant. The next step is to obtain an approved action plan, after which we expect to receive performance measures. Once we have received performance measures from HUD, we will revise our data collection procedures and disseminate them.

NHJB Berlin Listening Session

10/11/23 5:30pm

Berlin City Hall Auditorium

The New Hampshire Judicial Branch’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee is hosting a listening session in Berlin to learn more about people’s experiences in the court and how the court system can be improved. If you are a resident in the area, please come and share your ideas and experience.

Non-Judicial Branch Training

Affirming Spaces Project (ASP) <https://www.affirmingspacesproject.org/>

Nov. 1, 4pm - 5:30 via Zoom.

Learn how your practice can be more affirming and inclusive for Transgender and Gender Non Confirming (TGNC) people. No charge for training but donations to ASP are strongly encouraged.

To register, email mary@marysargentmediation.com

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-Script – Pictures from China

