

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

November 2, 2022

Wednesday



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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

Confidentiality Exceptions Resources Reminder

Just a reminder, that in emergency situations such as the ones outlined below, the mediator may (or must) break confidentiality to address the situation.

Child Abuse: Per RSA 169-C:29, "any person having reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the same." Please visit DHHS's website for more information: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/report-concern/report-child-abuse>

Elder Abuse: Per RSA 161-F:46 "any person... suspecting or believing in good faith that any adult who is, or who is suspected to be vulnerable, at the time of the incident, has been suspected to abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation, or is, or was living in hazardous conditions shall report..." Please visit the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services for more information: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/report-concern/adult-abuse#:~:text=If%20you%20suspect%20or%20believe,or%20603%2D271%2D7014>.

Violence towards the self or others: Threats of violence to self or others are exceptions to the confidentiality rules that govern mediation. If you suspect that there is imminent danger, please dial 911. If you have reason to believe that a party is experiencing "suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress" please call 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides access to trained crisis counselors who can assist. Please visit SAMSA's website for more information: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/faqs>

Lastly, please use the **Ready for Anything** training provided by MH Mediate to help you develop a plan for how to handle emergency situations and disruptive behaviors. Please see October's newsletter for more information.

Divorce/Parenting Mediators – Rescheduling Advice Solicitation

At the summit, mediators brought up frustrations around the rescheduling process. If there is a tactic, technique, or best practice that makes rescheduling an easier process for you, please email Margaret at mhuang@courts.state.nh.us with the tactic, technique, or best practice.

LT Mediators – NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program Update

Starting October 28, 2022 the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program is no longer accepting new applications. The Emergency Rental Assistance program is predicted to end by December 29, 2022. SNHS has informed the courts that they will no longer be attending landlord-tenant sessions at Manchester and Nashua Circuit Courts. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.nhhfa.org/emergency-rental-assistance-program-paused/>

Non-Judicial Branch Training

NH Listens: Advanced Facilitator Training

This training focuses on enhancing confidence to remain neutral, productively address issues and encourage and move conversation in a constructive manner.

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 – 12-2:30pm EST

For more information: <https://carsey.unh.edu/calendar-event/72226>