

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

February 1, 2023

Wednesday



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Mediation Questionnaires

The mediation questionnaire form has been changed to include a QR code which will lead parties to the surveymonkey online form. **Please distribute mediation questionnaires to parties after every mediation.**

The questionnaire is available in a paper form for in-person mediations: (<https://www.courts.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt471/files/documents/2021-04/nhjb-2091-dfps.pdf>), and an electronic form for remote mediations: (surveymonkey.com/r/NHMediation)

Mileage Logs 2023 – Divorce/Parenting Mediators

The mileage log has been updated with the 2023 rates. Divorce/parenting mediators should use the attached form.

TPR/VMA Evaluation

The ADR Office has retained the Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program to evaluate the Termination of Parental Rights/Voluntarily Mediated Agreements program to see how the program can be improved. Students from the clinic will spend the Spring 2023 semester interviewing stakeholders and hopefully observing a few mediations.

S. Ct. Rule 48-B Changes Submitted to Supreme Court

The ADR Office has submitted amendments to S. Ct. Rule 48-B to the Supreme Court. The request has been docketed as #2023-003 and can be found here: <https://www.courts.nh.gov/resources/committees/advisory-committee-rules/committee-materials-docket-number/2023>

Reminder – Data Collection Forms and Statements for Payment

Please distribute data collection forms for divorce/parenting mediations when a party is Grant-funded. Data collection forms are needed for quarterly reporting purposes

Please distribute data collection forms for landlord-tenant mediations. Data collection forms are needed to determine if the party will qualify for grant payment.

Please do not write notes on the Statements for Payment, a copy of the form resides in the case file, and a copy of it is sent to the ADR Office and the Accounting department.

Reminder – Sliding Scale for divorce/parenting mediators

Just a reminder that if a divorce/parenting mediator determines that case would benefit from additional mediation beyond four hours the sliding scale applies. If one of the parties uses financial assistance, the mediator must email the ADR Office to obtain approval. The following information should be included in the email: (1) approval from both parties to continue the mediation (2) acknowledgement that the party who uses financial assistance understands that they will need to repay the Office of Cost Containment for the additional mediation if they choose to mediate beyond four hours (3) the amount per hour each party will need to pay (4) the number of hours the mediator is requesting.

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