

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

February 7, 2024

Wednesday



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Divorce/Parenting Qualified Interns

Back in 2022, a bill passed which amended RSA 328-C, RSA 458:15-c and RSA 461-A to allow qualified interns to participate in court mediations under the supervision of a certified family mediator. We received our first qualified intern request in January, yay! As a reminder, the protocol for qualified interns to participate in court mediation is the following:

1. If a court-contracted divorce/parenting mediator plans to be a contracted supervisor and take on qualified interns, the mediator will email the Office of Mediation and Arbitration ("ADR Office") and the courts assigned with the attached attestation.
2. The ADR Office will keep a copy of the attestation in the supervising mediator's file.
3. The ADR Office will keep an excel file with the names of the supervisors, the interns, and their start and end dates.
4. The contracting supervisor shall obtain consent from the parties regarding the role of the intern.

If you have any questions on the protocol, please email Margaret at mhuang@courts.state.nh.us

If you have any questions on supervision, Mediator Susan Schweizer has graciously agreed to provide her contact information in this newsletter for you to ask any questions susan@mediationpartnersne.com

Court preferences

The last time we collected court preferences was in 2022. Since then, we've had mediators move and new mediators join our rosters. We use this information to contact mediators when there's a vacancy or if we need coverage.

Please fill out the below surveys before end of day February 29, 2024. If you are on both the divorce/parenting and small claims rosters, please fill out both surveys.

Divorce/parenting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTTWB8X>

Small claims/civil: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/697PCL9>

Rule 32 Continuing Education Report Deadline Extended

Thank you to those who attended the training on January 30th. If you signed in at the training, you *do not have to complete* a continuing education attestation. However, if you did not attend the training, you have until **February 29, 2024 to submit your attestation.**

Divorce/Parenting Mediation – 2024 mileage rate

The mileage rate has been updated for 2024. The form is attached and will be available on the court's webpage:

<https://www.courts.nh.gov/resources/mediation/circuit-court-adr/divorceparenting>

Policy clarification: If you drove to the courthouse for the first session of a case before you received a cancellation notice from a party or the party failed to appear, you can submit for mileage reimbursement for the case.

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

Form Changes

Form changes effective now:

Form Number	Description	What's Changed
N/A	2024 Mileage Log	Rate increase to \$0.67/mile