

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

March 11, 2024

Monday



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Divorce/Parenting Mediations – Fund eligibility at 250% FPL

Effective January 31, 2024, the monthly gross income threshold for a party to be eligible for a court-appointed divorce/parenting mediator to be paid by the court fund is at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Line. Please see Administrative Order 2024-04 for more details:

<https://www.courts.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt471/files/documents/2024-02/administrativeordercircuitcourt-2024-04.pdf>

This increase in threshold was piloted starting in July 2023 and will continue indefinitely. You can find the 2024 federal poverty guidelines here:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

Reminder: Please remember to provide grant-eligible parties with the data collection form. We are required to provide the data collected to DHHS as a condition of the grant.

Small Claims/Landlord-Tenant mediation fee change

Starting on **March 18, 2024**, the fee for small claims/landlord-tenant mediations will be increased to \$90 per case.

Furthermore, starting on **March 18, 2024**, if a mediator is assigned to and attends a small claims or landlord-tenant session and is does not receive any mediations, the mediator can submit a Mediator Statement for Payment asking to be compensated \$90. Only one request for compensation can be made per ½ day session.

The Updated Mediator Statement for Payment will be available on the website end of the day March 15, 2024: <https://www.courts.nh.gov/resources/mediation>

Rule 32 Continuing Education Report Deadline Passed

If you have not done so already, please submit your Rule 32 continuing education training attestation as soon as possible. If you no longer wish to be on the Rule 32 roster, please send an email to Carissa Carkhuff (ccarkhuff@courts.state.nh.us) and we will take you off the roster.

The Roster for Rule 32 Mediators has also been re-formatted to include areas of specialty to assist self-represented litigants with finding a mediator.

Trauma-Informed and Bias-Resistant Resources

The NHJB ADR Office was a pilot-site for CUNY Dispute Resolution Center and MH Mediate's Trauma-Informed and Bias Resistant Resource System for Courts project. A benefit of being a pilot-site is the opportunity to receive the resources they developed. There are 12 one-page resources available. Each month we will be attaching and highlighting one of the resources provided. If you would like to access all 12 resources and associated videos, you can access them for free after making an account here: <https://biasresistantcourts.org/>

This month is "Appreciate How Trauma Manifests Differently for Different People" which describes the different ways people react to stress.

Form Changes

Form changes effective March 15, 2024:

Form Number	Description	What's Changed
NHJB-2630-DFP	Mediator Statement for Payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small Claims and Landlord/Tenant fee increase to \$90 per case.• Compensation fee for no mediations added.

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

Non-Judicial Branch Training

Divorce/Parenting Mediator Skills Workshop

Mark your calendars! 90 minute skills workshop 4/24 @ 4pm via Zoom. More info to follow. FMCB approval pending. Email Mary@marysargentmediation.com for more information