

The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

July 3, 2023

Monday



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Divorce/Parenting Mediator and Case Manager Summit

Please save the date! The annual Case Manager-Mediator Summit will be held on **September 15, 2023 from 9am-3pm**. The summit will be held **in-person at One Granite Place**. We look forward to seeing you then!

The 2022 Case Manager-Mediator Summit has been approved for 5 hours of continuing education by the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (2.5 hours of family relationships; .75 hours legal update, 1.75 hours other). Please email Carissa Carkhuff at ccarkhuff@courts.state.nh.us to obtain a certificate of attendance.

Divorce/Parenting Mediation Fee Changes

Starting July 1, 2023, the court will begin issuing Notices of Appointment with the increased fee of \$225 per party or \$450 per 4 hours of mediation and one hour of administrative work.

If you have not done so already, please fill out, sign, and return the updated contract *as soon as possible*. Prior contracts restricted the amount that a mediator could receive from the AV grant to \$150 per party.

The Circuit Court has issued AO 2023-06, which expands eligibility for the ADR fund from at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line to at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Line for a pilot period of July 1, 2023 – January 30, 2024.

SB 129 will be effective August 23, 2023, which eliminates the repayment requirement for fund with kids.

Please join me on July 11, at 12pm to go over these changes:

<https://nhcourts.webex.com/nhcourts/j.php?MTID=m9fa0dc6780cb12e972c4064844ee0441>

Mediation Questionnaires

Please continue to send mediation questionnaires to parties at the end of a mediation. Earlier this year, you may have received an email from Carissa Carkhuff with comments from parties about their mediation experience that the ADR Office has received through mediation questionnaires. Mediation questionnaires are an easy way for parties to express their thoughts about the mediation process. From our responses, we know that regardless of whether a mediation settles, 93.98% of respondents say they would use mediation again if needed. We will begin to send out mediation questionnaire responses to mediators at the end of every month starting this month.

Portable Printers

The ADR Office will be ordering new portable printers on July 10, 2023. If you know of a court that needs a new portable printer, *this is your last chance to notify us*. Please email Carissa Carkhuff at ccarkhuff@courts.state.nh.us by Friday, July 7, 2023.

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