



State of North Carolina
General Court of Justice
9th Judicial District

DANIEL F. FINCH
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

J. HENRY BANKS
JOHN W. DAVIS
RANDOLPH BASKERVILLE
CAROLYN J. YANCEY
AMANDA E. STEVENSON

Dear Parent,

Please read the enclosed orientation notice carefully. The purpose of the group orientation meeting is to explain the mediation process, answer your questions, and schedule your initial mediation session. You are ***not allowed to bring children*** (** or other parties) to the orientation or mediation sessions and you will need to allow up to two hours for the mediation session. With very few exceptions, ***North Carolina law*** requires that you attend the orientation ***and*** at least one mediation session. Failure to do so will subject you to the contempt powers of the Court.

In custody mediation, the parents meet privately with a trained mediator to arrive at a parenting plan that provides for the unique needs of each child. The meetings with the mediator are confidential, and ***parents make their own decisions*** affecting the welfare of their children. The goal of mediation is a workable parenting agreement that will define your responsibilities concerning care for your child(ren). This agreement becomes an enforceable court order when signed by a judge, but it will be an order designed by parents and not dictated by the court because ***you know what is best for your children!***

Custody mediation is a program that has been very successful throughout other parts of our state and nation. In short, no matter how well intentioned the court system is, court proceedings are not well suited to meet the needs of children or parents. It is our sincere hope that mediation will assist both of you in agreeing on a written parenting plan which will enable you to remain good parents despite your personal and legal differences.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Finch
Chief District Court Judge
Ninth Judicial District

** Pursuant to Local Rules Section V, Part C- "Parties permitted to be present to mediation are only those named in the suit"