

ADDENDUM TO ORDER & NOTICE OF COURT EVENTS

The Child Custody Mediation Office has promulgated the following procedures for remote participation in the mandatory Child Custody Mediation Orientation and in the mandatory Child Custody Mediation session under Rule 20 of the Local Rules for the District Court Division, Eighteenth Judicial District and approved by the Chief District Court Judge:

Custody Mediation Orientation. Until further notice, all parties have the option to complete the Child Custody Mediation Orientation remotely, through the court-approved online Orientation Training program offered by the NC Administrative Office of the Courts, instead of appearing at the scheduled in-person Orientation held at the Courthouse. No other online custody mediation orientation will be accepted.

Any party wishing to complete the court-approved online Orientation (instead of appearing in-person) must complete the following steps PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED DATE FOR IN-PERSON ORIENTATION shown on the Order & Notice of Events:

1. Complete the court-approved online Orientation at <https://www.nccourts.gov/form/child-custody-mediation-orientation> and submit the confirmation of completion to the Child Custody Mediation Office (provided at the end of the online program) at Michele.G.McRae@nccourts.org; and
2. Download the Custody Mediation Intake Form (AOC-A-208) at <https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/forms/custody-mediation-intake-form> and submit the completed Intake Form to the Custody Mediation Office at Michele.G.McRae@nccourts.org.

In order for the on-line Orientation to satisfy the mandatory court requirement, the Child Custody Mediation Office must receive the confirmation of completion and the completed Intake Form prior to the scheduled in-person Orientation. If the Custody Mediation Office does not receive the confirmation of completion or the Intake Form, you MUST appear at the scheduled in-person Orientation.

Custody Mediation Session. Until further notice, Custody Mediation sessions may be held remotely, through telephone or video conference, instead of an in-person mediation session held at the Courthouse AS LONG AS BOTH PARTIES IN THE CASE ELECT TO DO SO.

Any party wishing to participate in the mediation session remotely (by telephone or video conference) must contact the Custody Mediation Program Administrator at (336) 412-7815 or Michele.G.McRae@nccourts.org before the mediation session is scheduled and noticed. If both parties agree that the session will be conducted remotely, the Custody Mediation Program Administrator will notice the appointment accordingly. Otherwise, the session will be noticed as in-person.

If both parties do not elect to participate remotely, both parties MUST appear in-person at the scheduled mediation session (except for parties who are authorized to appear remotely due to residing more than fifty (50) miles from the Courthouse).

For more information or to request links to the online Orientation or the online Intake Form, please contact the Custody Mediation Program Administrator at (336) 412-7815 or at Michele.G.McRae@nccourts.org.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Teresa H. Vincent
Chief District Court Judge