

Cumberland County



Family Court

The Goals and Benefits of Child Custody/Visitation Mediation

A. Elizabeth Keever
Chief District Court Judge

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS:

Your domestic case has been referred to our Family Court Child Custody/Visitation Mediation program. Enclosed is your Notice of Hearing, which schedules the date and time of your initial Custody Mediation orientation session and Parenting Education session.

Your appearance in court on this date is required. DO NOT bring children under the age of six with you. If you have children under the age of six, make child care arrangements for them now. You should allow two hours to complete the orientation and education sessions.

If any of your children are age six or older, you should plan to bring them with you. The Family Court has established a special Children's Divorce Support Group in which children six and up participate while the parents attend the orientation and education sessions.

Cumberland County's Family Court incorporates these special services for parents and children to minimize the emotional hardship that divorce can cause to children of all ages.

Mediation is a practical way to resolve custody and/or visitation issues. Through an impartial third party, mediation brings parents together to reach their own agreement about parenting that is in the best interest of their child or children. No issues other than custody and visitation are considered during the mediation sessions. Parenting agreements that are created by the parents are longer lasting and reduce future conflicts.

The Parent Education program explains the impact separation and divorce have on children. Parenting skills are presented to help you and your children cope with the multiple life changes divorce brings. It is important to fully understand your child's point of view and to take steps to communicate your feelings in a positive way.

I hope that each of you will participate fully and take advantage of these helpful programs.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FAMILY COURT *CUSTODY MEDIATION OFFICE* P.O. BOX 363 * FAYETTEVILLE*NC*28302*(910) 678-2920