



**State of North Carolina  
General Court of Justice  
District Court Division**

*Fifth Judicial District  
New Hanover County Judicial Building  
316 Princess Street Suite 519  
Wilmington, N.C. 28401-4099  
Phone: (910) 341-4416  
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**John W. Smith  
Chief District Court Judge**

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE TO PARTIES FOLLOWING MEDIATION:**

Thank you for participating in the Fifty District's Child Custody Mediation program. You have discussed the possibility of settlement of the issues of custody and visitation, and the terms upon which general agreement has been reached are set out in the attached memorandum. Now that the terms have been reduced to writing, you have several options. This letter is to provide you with sufficient information so that an informed decision can be made as to what should be done next.

**IF YOU ARE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY**, you should take the attached memorandum together with this letter to your attorney and discuss this matter with your attorney. The attorney will advise you as to what you should do next.

**IF YOU ARE NOT REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY**, you have an absolute right to contact an attorney of your choice to discuss the issue of child custody and visitation. If you choose to represent yourself, you will need to read and sign the following acknowledgement to insure that you are making this decision with adequate information:

I have chosen to represent myself. I understand that I have an absolute right to contact an attorney about the issue of child custody and visitation. I also understand that there is a child support law and that any agreement concerning custody may affect my child support obligations. I also understand that if this agreement provides that it is to be converted into a court order, that it may have the same enforceability as any other court order, and that I may be held in contempt if I violate it. I have made the decision to represent myself freely and voluntarily and I believe that I fully understand what I am doing. I have read the memorandum, and I understand its contents. I want to enter this consent agreement and I do not wish to talk further with any attorney. I understand that if both parties do not sign an agreement, my signing this document will not be used against me in any way.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

For successful mediation to occur, an agreement needs to be signed by both parties within a reasonable time. The Custody Mediator has made an appointment for you on \_\_\_\_\_, and you will need to return on that date with a decision whether to enter this agreement or not. If you choose not to enter the agreement, unless the time is extended by the Custody Mediator, the court will be notified that attempts to mediate have not been successful, and that the matter should be returned to the trial calendar.

Thank you for giving mediation a chance, and regardless of the outcome we appreciate your participation in this pre-trial effort to resolve this very difficult issue.

I received a copy of this notice on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

John W. Smith  
Chief District Court Judge