

Custody Mediation Cover Sheet & Notice for Custody Mediation Orientation

County: <input type="checkbox"/> Camden <input type="checkbox"/> Chowan <input type="checkbox"/> Currituck <input type="checkbox"/> Dare <input type="checkbox"/> Gates <input type="checkbox"/> Pasquotank <input type="checkbox"/> Perquimans	File #: _____
Parent/ Caretaker's Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____ Interpreter needed? <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Language: _____	Plaintiff's Attorney: _____ _____
Parent/ Caretaker's Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____ Interpreter needed? <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Language: _____	Defendant's Attorney: _____ <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please check one below:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Filing for Custody/Visitation <input type="checkbox"/> Motion to Modify Custody/Visitation

EACH PARTY IS **REQUIRED** TO COMPLETE A SHORT **ONLINE CUSTODY MEDIATION ORIENTATION** WITHIN **THIRTY (30) DAYS** OF FILING A CHILD CUSTODY ACTION OR BEING SERVED WITH ONE.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE ORIENTATION WITHIN THE 30-DAY DEADLINE **SHALL RESULT** IN THE OFFENDING PARTY BEING **SUMMONED TO COURT FOR IN-PERSON ORIENTATION**, WHERE THEY RISK BEING HELD IN **CONTEMPT** AND/OR HAVING THEIR INDIVIDUAL CLAIM DISMISSED. MEDIATION IS MANDATORY UNDER RULE 5 OF THE CUSTODY MEDIATION PROGRAM.

NOTE: If you have attended an orientation session in the last five (5) years, please contact the Mediator for a waiver. After all parties to the case have completed Orientation, your private Child Custody Mediation session will be scheduled.

Parties shall promptly contact the Custody Mediator at Tina.D.Walker@nccourts.org to fulfill their obligations.

The moving party shall serve upon the opposing party and counsel the pleading and this *Notice of Custody Mediation Orientation*.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
I certify that a copy of this Notice for Custody Mediation Orientation was served as follows:	
<input type="checkbox"/> By depositing a copy enclosed in a postpaid, properly addressed wrapper in a Post Office or official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the U.S. Postal Service directed to: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff's Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant's Attorney </div>	
<input type="checkbox"/> By delivering a copy personally to: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff's Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant's Attorney </div>	
<input type="checkbox"/> By Sheriff's Service with a copy of Complaint to: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff's Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant's Attorney </div>	

 Signature
☐ Plaintiff ☐ Plaintiff's Attorney
☐ Defendant ☐ Defendant's Attorney

 Date

(OVER)

WHAT IS ORIENTATION?

Parties with Child Custody and Visitation matters must participate in the mandatory North Carolina's Custody Mediation Program in an effort to resolve their disputes without having to go through a trial in court. The first of this two-step process is the ORIENTATION SESSION. Parties in the custody case are court ordered to attend one orientation session and at least one mediation session. Orientation is usually scheduled within 30 days of the date the case is sent to the Custody Mediation Program.

The Orientation is a group presentation and is designed to provide participants with a general understanding of what Mediation involves. You will complete information necessary for the Mediator's file and you will be provided with informational material about the program as well as referrals to local resources for children and parents.

**This IS NOT your individual Mediation Session.
Your Mediation Session will be scheduled
after all parties to the case have attended Orientation.**

Notify the Mediator prior to your attendance to Orientation if you have a No Contact/Domestic Violence Protective Order that is currently in place.

Remember, if you have attended an Orientation session in the last five (5) years, you are not required to attend again. You are directed to contact the person listed on the front of this form to schedule a mediation session.

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a guided conversation. Custody Mediation offers a "family-friendly" way of handling a custody disagreement. The Mediator helps the parties look at their parenting concerns and the needs of the children. Mediation reduces the stress and anxiety often involved in custody disputes. It gives you, the parents, the opportunity to make the important decisions regarding your child(ren) without having to go through a trial in court.

For more information about the Custody Mediation Program, please visit:
<https://www.nccourts.gov/help-topics/family-and-children/custody-mediation>