

11th Judicial District
Harnett, Johnston and Lee Counties



The Goals and Benefits of Child Custody/Visitation Mediation

Paul A. Holcombe, III, Chief District Court Judge

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS:

Dear Parents:

Please read the enclosed Orientation Notice and this letter carefully.

The purpose of the group orientation meeting is to explain the mediation process, answer your questions, and schedule your initial mediation session. Please note that the mediation session is scheduled on a different day than this orientation. You are not allowed to bring children to the orientation or mediation sessions. Please allow up to two hours for the orientation session, and up to two hours for the mediation session. North Carolina law requires that you attend the orientation and at least one mediation session; there are very few exceptions to this. **FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL SUBJECT YOU TO THE CONTEMPT POWERS OF THE COURT.**

The goals of custody and visitation mediation are to reduce the stress and anxiety on children whose parents are separating and to give you, the parents, an opportunity to make the important decisions regarding your child(ren) without having to go through the ordeal of a trial. Mediation provides the structured setting necessary to keep you focused on what is in the best interest of your child(ren) regardless of the problems between you and the other parent.

Custody mediation is a program that has been very successful throughout our State. It is our sincere hope that mediation will assist both of you in agreeing on a written Parenting Agreement, which will enable you to remain good parents despite your personal and legal differences.

If you need special accommodations to access the upper floor meeting facilities, or have other special needs, please contact the custody mediator, at 910-814-4460, at least 48 hours in advance of this scheduled orientation.

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