

NORTH CAROLINA
14th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DURHAM COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. _____ -CVD- _____

_____	Plaintiff(s),
v.	
_____	Defendant(s),

NOTICE TO ATTEND
Orientation & Parenting Apart Class
(via Video Conference)

(A copy of this form MUST be sent by the Moving Party to the Responding Party and shall operate as both Parties' Notice to Attend)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §50-13.1 and Chapter 237, Section 17.16 of the 1999 Session Laws, the child custody and/or visitation issues in the above captioned case have been referred to a mandatory parenting education class and mandatory participation in the Custody Mediation Program.

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO COMPLETE "Orientation & Parenting Apart Class" on:

THURSDAY, _____, 20_____ at 11:00 A.M.

To eliminate risk of COVID-19 transmission, your state mandated Orientation/Class will be conducted via video conference using Zoom, an internet-based video conferencing tool.

To attend, sign in to the Orientation/Class using this link from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://nccourts.zoom.us/j/9157362366> The class is two (2) hours long.

NOTE: Both video and audio presence is required. You may use a phone number below to connect the audio portion of your connection only if you are connection audio and video through two separate devices: *Dial:* (301) 715-8592 or (312) 626-6799; *Meeting ID:* 9157362366

*****Sign-In begins at 10:40 AM and ends promptly at 11:00 AM.*****

You will not be able to join the meeting after 11 AM.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE ORIENTATION/CLASS REQUIREMENT may result in the contempt powers of the Court, including SANCTIONS and/or FINES.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of this Notice has been served in the following manner:

by Sheriff's Service OR by depositing a copy thereof in the United States mail in a properly addressed, postpaid envelope to:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

AND, a copy of this document has been provided to FAMILY COURT, 14th Judicial District, Suite 6500, 6th Floor, Durham County Courthouse, 510 South Dillard Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

This is the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature (Moving Party, Case Coordinator or Mediator)

The Child Custody & Visitation Mediation Program: Goals, Benefits and Information

*Pat Evans
Chief District Court Judge
District 14*

Why am I receiving this notice? Your domestic case has been referred to our mandatory Custody Mediation Program. Enclosed is your Notice to Attend Orientation and Parenting Apart Class.

What happens at the Orientation/Class? The Orientation & Parenting Apart Class is typically held in a group setting at the Courthouse; but is now being held by video conference using the Zoom platform due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts. During the Orientation/Class, you will receive information about the Custody Mediation process and about the impact of parental conflict on children. The Orientation/Class may last up to TWO HOURS.

What happens after the Orientation/Class? After all parties complete the group Orientation/Class, you will receive a mandatory private Mediation Session date. The private Mediation Sessions are presently held by video conference, until further notice, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is the purpose of Mediation? Mediation is a practical way for you to resolve the custody and/or visitation matter(s) quickly and at no cost. You and the other party/parent will have the opportunity to create a workable parenting plan with the assistance of a neutral, professional mediator. The goal is to bring parties together regarding the best interests of the child(ren) and avoid having such decisions made by a judge. Agreements reached in mediation become a binding and enforceable Order of the Court once signed by the Presiding District Court Judge.

Am I required to attend? Yes, your completion of the Orientation/Class is required. Please contact the Mediation Office as needed for further information about the requirement.

What if I received the Notice to Attend *after* the scheduled date? Please contact the Mediation Office at (919) 808-3025 right away to reschedule for the next available date.

What if I have safety concerns or an order of protection? Please contact either (919) 808-3025 or (919) 808-3225 to discuss safety concerns and/or protective orders as they relate to orientation and/or mediation. If there is an existing Protective Order, please notify us.

Is the mediation requirement ever waived? Mediation may not be appropriate in all cases and is occasionally waived by a judge. If you wish to seek a waiver, you may choose to file a Motion and Order to Waive Custody Mediation (FORM AOC-CV-632), which can be found at www.nccourts.gov or obtained in the Family Court Suite (Suite 6500).

TO DO BEFORE ORIENTATION

1. Custody Mediation Intake Form

Please return a completed Custody Mediation Intake form. The form is found at:

<https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/forms/custody-mediation-intake-form>

- Download, complete and save a copy of the above Intake form to your device
- Send the completed intake form to the Custody Mediation office by email: D14.custodymediation@nccourts.org; or fax: 919-808-3045

2. Parenting Apart Class Intake/Verification Form

Please complete the online Parenting Apart Class intake form at the following link:

<https://www.nccourts.gov/form/parent-education-presentation-verification>

Note: after completing this online “form” process, you will receive a verification email. This verification does not mean you have completed the Parenting Apart Class in full.

3. Read the following **two** booklets, found online at:

“Putting Children First” Booklet:

<https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/putting-children-first-orientation-booklet-for-families-in-transition>

“The Most Important Job” Booklet:

<https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/the-most-important-job-parenting-information-for-families-living-apart-north-carolina-parent-education-handbook>

Contact us with questions, concerns, or if you wish to have the above links (to intakes and booklets) emailed to you:

Kristen Hirsch, Custody Mediator: kristen.b.hirsch@nccourts.org

Debbi Huntoon, Custody Mediator: debra-jeane.huntoon@nccourts.org

Jimmy Lewis, Jr., Access and Visitation Coordinator: jimmy.lewis@nccourts.org