

NORTH CAROLINA  
14<sup>th</sup> 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, \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 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>**

Use phone numbers below if you cannot connect both audio and video through your device using the link above: *Dial:* (301) 715-8592 or (312) 626-6799; *Meeting ID:* 9157362366

**\*\*\*Sign-In begins at 10:45 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
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**AND, a copy of this document has been provided to FAMILY COURT, 14th Judicial District, Suite 6500, 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:kristen.b.hirsch@nccourts.org)

Debbi Huntoon, Custody Mediator: [debra-jeane.huntoon@nccourts.org](mailto:debra-jeane.huntoon@nccourts.org)

Jimmy Lewis, Jr., Access and Visitation Coordinator: [jimmy.lewis@nccourts.org](mailto:jimmy.lewis@nccourts.org)