



JOHN W. DAVIS  
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 11

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES  
AMANDA E. STEVENSON  
ADAM S. KEITH  
CAROLINE S. BURNETTE  
JOHN H. STULTZ  
BENJAMIN S. HUNTER  
S. KATHERINE BURNETTE

Dear Parent,

Please read the enclosed orientation notice carefully. The purpose of the orientation is to explain the mediation process, answer your questions, and allow the mediator to schedule your initial mediation session. You will be notified of the date and time of your online mediation session via email after both parties complete online Orientation. This session is CONFIDENTIAL, meaning **NO children or other parties** are allowed to be present during any mediation sessions. You will need to allow up to two hours for the mediation session. With very few exceptions, **North Carolina law** requires that you attend the orientation and at least one mediation session. Failure to do so will subject you to the contempt powers of the Court.

In custody mediation, the parents meet privately with a trained mediator to arrive at a parenting plan that provides for the unique needs of each child. The meetings with the mediator are confidential, and **parents make their own decisions** affecting the welfare of their children. The goal of mediation is a workable parenting agreement that will define your responsibilities concerning care for your child(ren). This agreement becomes an enforceable court order when signed by both/all parties and a Judge, but it will be an order designed by parents and not dictated by the court because **you know what is best for your children!**

Custody mediation is a program that has been very successful throughout other parts of our state and nation. In short, no matter how well intentioned the court system is, court proceedings are not well suited to meet the needs of children or parents. (Some cases are not appropriate for Custody Mediation, and your mediator will assist you in making that determination.)

It is our sincere hope that mediation will assist all parties in agreeing on a written parenting plan which will enable you to remain good parents despite your personal and legal differences.

Sincerely,

John W. Davis  
Chief District Court Judge  
Eleventh Judicial District

\*\* Pursuant to Local Rules Section V, Part C- " Parties permitted to be present to mediation are only those named in the suit"