

# **APPENDIX D**

## **Mediation Notice**

NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION  
FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff

**MEDIATION  
NOTICE**

v.

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant

***NOTICE: ALL PARTIES IN CASES INVOLVING CUSTODY,  
VISITATION AND/OR FAMILY FINANCIAL MATTERS MUST  
PARTICIPATE IN A MEDIATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE  
PRIOR TO A HEARING IN THEIR CASE.***

THIS CASE INVOLVES (select all that apply):

\_\_\_ A dispute regarding custody and/or visitation with a child(ren).

\_\_\_ A Family Financial matter (Equitable Distribution, Alimony or Support)

IF YOU ARE NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AND YOUR CASE ONLY INVOLVES CUSTODY AND/OR VISITATION WITH A CHILD(REN), ***YOU MUST CONTACT TINA WALKER AT: [tina.d.walker@nccourts.org](mailto:tina.d.walker@nccourts.org). Read the reverse of this notice for more information about custody mediation.*** If you are represented by counsel, your counsel has the option of contacting the Court's mediator or choosing another certified mediator to conduct the settlement conference.

IF YOUR CASE INVOLVES FAMILY FINANCIAL MATTERS, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ORDER TO ATTEND A SCHEDULING AND DISCOVERY CONFERENCE WITHIN 120 DAYS. FILE FORM AOC-CV-824 TO DESIGNATE A MEDIATOR PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE OR THE COURT WILL APPOINT A MEDIATOR FOR YOU.

Your signature indicates your acknowledgment of the foregoing and that you have attached this Notice to the pleading to be served on the opposing party.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

(OVER)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is intended to be a more economical, efficient and satisfactory method of resolving your dispute. Mediation reduces the stress and anxiety often involved in family related disputes, such as custody or distribution of property. It gives you the opportunity to resolve your dispute by having the parties come to an agreement 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>

## 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.*