

**Custody Mediation Cover Sheet
And
Notice for Custody Mediation Orientation**

County: <input type="checkbox"/> Camden <input type="checkbox"/> Chowan <input type="checkbox"/> Currituck <input type="checkbox"/> Dare <input type="checkbox"/> Gates <input type="checkbox"/> Pasquotank <input type="checkbox"/> Perquimans	File #: _____ CVD _____
Plaintiff's Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____	Plaintiff's Attorney:
Defendant's Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____	Defendant's Attorney: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please check one below:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Filing for Custody/ Visitation <input type="checkbox"/> Motion to Modify Custody / Visitation

THE PARTIES ARE SCHEDULED TO ATTEND A **MANDATORY** CUSTODY MEDIATION ORIENTATION AS LISTED BELOW.

NOTE: If you have attended an orientation session in the last five (5) years, you are not required to attend again. Please contact the Mediator at the number below to schedule a mediation session.

Due to the current healthcare pandemic/ COVID-19 Custody Mediation services are being held virtually via the ZOOM video conference platform.

The moving party shall serve upon the opposing party and counsel the pleading and this *Notice of Custody Mediation Orientation*. Orientation will last approximately one (1) hour. After all parties to the case have completed Orientation, your Custody Mediation session will be scheduled.

**Questions & requests for appointments may be directed to
Tina D. Walker at tina.d.walker@nccourts.org**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this Notice for Custody Mediation Orientation was served as follows:

By depositing a copy enclosed in a postpaid, properly addressed wrapper in a Post Office or official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the U.S. Postal Service directed to:

Plaintiff Defendant Plaintiff's Attorney Defendant's Attorney

By delivering a copy personally to:

Plaintiff Defendant Plaintiff's Attorney Defendant's Attorney

By Sheriff's Service with a copy of Complaint to:

Plaintiff Defendant Plaintiff's Attorney Defendant's Attorney

 Signature
 Plaintiff Plaintiff's Attorney
 Defendant Defendant's Attorney

 Date

(OVER)

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.

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a guided conversation. Custody Mediation offers a "family-friendly" way of handling a custody disagreement. The Mediator helps the parties look at their parenting concerns and the needs of the children. Mediation reduces the stress and anxiety often involved in custody disputes. It gives you, the parents, the opportunity to make the important decisions regarding your child(ren) 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>