

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

<b>County:</b> _____	<b>File #:</b> _____
<b>Plaintiff's Name:</b> _____	<b>Plaintiff's Attorney:</b> _____
<b>Address:</b> _____	
<b>Telephone:</b> _____	
<b>Defendant's Name:</b> _____	<b>Defendant's Attorney:</b> _____
<b>Address:</b> _____	<i>Please check one below:</i>
<b>Telephone:</b> _____	<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 Deborah James at the number below to schedule a mediation session.*

<b>Date:</b>	_____
<b>Location:</b>	_____
<b>Time:</b>	_____

The moving party shall serve upon the opposing party and counsel the pleading and this *Notice of Custody Mediation Orientation* that identifies the orientation date, time and location. During the Orientation, the time and date for Custody Mediation session will be scheduled. This Orientation will last approximately one (1) hour.

**Questions & requests for appointments may be directed to Deborah James at 252-340-3752**

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>	
I certify that a copy of this Notice for Custody Mediation Orientation was served as follows:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	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:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff's Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant's Attorney
<input type="checkbox"/>	By delivering a copy personally to:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff's Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant's Attorney
<input type="checkbox"/>	By Sheriff's Service with a copy of Complaint to:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff's Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant's Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
 Plaintiff       Plaintiff's Attorney  
 Defendant       Defendant's Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(OVER)

## WHAT IS ORIENTATION?

Parties with child custody and visitation issues 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 at the conclusion of the Orientation.**

If a No Contact/Domestic Violence Protective Order is currently in place and you feel the need for a deputy escort at the Orientation Session, please call the contact and number on the front of this form so that arrangements can be made.

This is an open session so you may bring whomever you would like for support, but it is highly recommended that you DO NOT BRING CHILDREN to orientation.

*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>