

**WASHTENAW COUNTY TRIAL COURT  
FAMILY DIVISION**

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**TO: Plaintiff/Plaintiff's Attorney in new divorce cases assigned to Judge Darlene A. O'Brien or Judge Patrick J. Conlin, Jr.**

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**You have been designated to participate in an alternative dispute resolution program.**

**This packet contains a Notice, Order and a list of mediation resources you need to proceed with divorce mediation.**

**These materials should answer questions you may have about this program. Please read them carefully upon receipt.**

**If you still have questions after reading these materials, please direct them to the office of the Judge assigned to your case:**

**Hon. Darlene A. O'Brien  
101 E. Huron, Rm 2104  
P.O. Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645  
(734) 222-3006**

**Hon. Patrick J. Conlin, Jr.  
101 E. Huron, Rm 2103H  
P.O. Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645  
(734) 222-3399**

**Alternatively, you may request that your case be referred to our Peacemaking Court.**

**THANK YOU!**

**NOTICE OF ORDER FOR MEDIATION**  
**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH SERVICE**

The divorce case you filed has been assigned to Judge Darlene A. O'Brien or Judge Patrick J. Conlin, Jr. The parties are required to participate in mediation *before* the Pretrial Conference **UNLESS AN EXEMPTION TO MEDIATION APPLIES** (see Order and Response). You will receive notification of the Pretrial date in the near future. **Plaintiff must serve a copy of this notice, a completed copy of the Order for Mediation, and the attached list of mediation resources with your Complaint and Summons upon the other party.** You must also return the original Order for Mediation and your completed Response to the Order for Mediation to the court with your Proof of Service.

The way a divorce proceeding begins can either aggravate pain and anger between spouses or frighten and sadden children, or it can be the start of a healthy reorganization of family life. Mediation is a highly effective method for reducing conflict in the family and allowing parties to fashion their own future.

Mediation is a confidential, non-adversarial process in which parties resolve their disputes with assistance of an impartial and neutral mediator. The mediator does not give legal advice, counseling or opinions. The parties always have the opportunity to consult with their attorneys. The agreement must be acceptable to both parties. **The mediator does not take the place of an attorney. If you have an attorney or intend to retain one, make sure the attorney receives this letter.**

The court maintains a list of court-qualified mediators for domestic relations cases, which is attached. To review biographical information, ask to see the ADR binder located in the Central Assignment office. The parties are also free to choose another mediator who is not on this list. The Michigan Council for Family and Divorce Mediators maintains a list of mediators throughout the state. For lower cost mediation the parties may contact the Dispute Resolution Center of Washtenaw County, or the Washtenaw County Friend of the Court for child-related issues.

The mediator is required to submit a Status Report to the Judge indicating only the status of the mediation and no other details (Form MC 280).

Exceptions to the Order for Mediation include:

- 1) The parties have a signed Settlement Agreement on all issues;
- 2) The case is already in mediation;
- 3) Defendant's whereabouts are unknown;
- 4) A party to this case is subject to a Personal Protection Order or a criminal No Contact Order is in effect; or
- 5) The parties are involved in a child abuse and neglect proceeding.

If an exception applies to your case, inform the Judge's office before the pretrial conference. At the time of the pretrial conference, the Judge anticipates that the parties will have: a temporary agreement on parenting time, financial support and management of property and completed Verified Personal Financial Statements listing assets and liabilities.

Your cooperation in the mediation process is appreciated. We hope you will find that mediation is the best way for you to resolve your family's individual and unique situation.


Attachments: Order for Mediation  
Response to Order for Mediation  
List of Mediation Resources

STATE OF MICHIGAN 22 <sup>nd</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WASHTENAW COUNTY	ORDER FOR MEDIATION DOMESTIC RELATIONS	CASE NO. _____  HON. _____
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Plaintiff's name, address, telephone number:	V	Defendant's name, address, telephone number:
Plaintiff's attorney, bar number, address, telephone number:		Defendant's attorney, bar number, address, telephone number:

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. This case is ordered to mediation under MCR 3.216 **UNLESS** 1) a personal protection or other restraining order has been entered protecting a party and restraining another party, 2) a party is involved in a child abuse or neglect proceeding, **OR** 3) another exemption applies.
2. The filing party shall complete the accompanying **Response to Order for Mediation**. **IF THIS CASE IS EXEMPT FROM MEDIATION**, please indicate why on the Response sheet.
3. The completed **Response** sheet must be returned to the Circuit Court Services Office with the Proof of Service within 30 days.
4. Within 30 days after service on the defendant 1) the mediator shall be selected by the agreement of the parties, **AND** 2) the Judge must be notified of the name of the mediator **OR** that the parties cannot agree on a mediator. If no mediator is selected the ADR Clerk shall appoint a mediator.
5. Costs of mediation shall be divided by the parties *pro-rata*, unless otherwise agreed by the parties or ordered by the court; or for persons unable to pay, as provided by the court's ADR plan.
6. Parties are to attend mediation sessions, as directed by the mediator; attorneys may attend.
7. The filing party shall serve a copy of this Order for Mediation on defendant, along with the Complaint and Summons.
8. At or before a pre-trial conference a proposed temporary consent order shall be presented to the Judge setting forth the parties' interim 1) parenting arrangement, 2) financial arrangement (including child support, protection of assets, payment of bills), 3) any other relevant preliminary matters. The parties are also urged to continue mediation to achieve a final settlement.



Hon. Patrick J. Conlin (P56333)



Hon. Darlene A. O'Brien (P33182)

**NOTICE: A party may move to set aside or modify an Order for Mediation within 14 days after service or request that the case be sent to Peacemaking.**

**COPY of ORDER for MEDIATION TO BE SERVED WITH SUMMONS + COMPLAINT RETURN COMPLETED "RESPONSE TO ORDER FOR MEDIATION" + PROOF of SERVICE to:**  
**Circuit Court Services-Domestic**  
**101 E. Huron St.**  
**P.O. Box 8645 Rm 1105**  
**Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645**

<b>STATE OF MICHIGAN</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT</b> <b>WASHTENAW COUNTY</b>	<b>RESPONSE TO</b> <b>ORDER FOR MEDIATION</b> <b>DOMESTIC RELATIONS</b>	<b>CASE NO.</b> _____ <b>HON.</b> _____
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Plaintiff's name, address, telephone number:	V	Defendant's name, address, telephone number:
Plaintiff's attorney, bar number, address, telephone number:		Defendant's attorney, bar number, address, telephone number:

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Check / complete the section below that applies to this case.
2. Return this Response to the Order for Mediation, Domestic Relations with an additional copy of the Response for the Judge (marked Judge's Copy) within 30 days to:

**Circuit Court Services - Domestic**  
**101 E. Huron, P.O. Box 8645 Room 1105**  
**Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645**

- The parties are prepared to proceed with mediation and have selected \_\_\_\_\_ as their mediator.  
*(name)*
- The parties are prepared to proceed with mediation but cannot agree on a mediator and request that the ADR Clerk select a mediator for them.
- This case is exempt from the Order for Mediation, Domestic Relations because:
- The parties have a signed Settlement Agreement on all issues.
  - The parties are already in mediation (began mediation prior to the Order).
  - Defendant's whereabouts are unknown.
  - A party to this case is subject to a Personal Protection Order, a criminal No Contact Order or other restraining order has been entered protecting a party and restraining another party.
  - The parties are involved in a child abuse and neglect proceeding.
- If, despite an exemption, the parties want to participate in mediation, they must either schedule a hearing requesting mediation or may request mediation at the pre-trial.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Plaintiff / Attorney for Plaintiff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**LIST OF APPROVED DOMESTIC RELATIONS MEDIATORS  
WASHTENAW COUNTY TRIAL COURT  
July 2019**

Jeffrey Alber  
119 South Main St  
Chelsea, MI 48118  
(734) 475-8671  
[alber@keuschlaw.com](mailto:alber@keuschlaw.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$100

Ratib Habbal  
42807 Ford Rd #108  
Canton, MI 48187  
(248) 390-5910  
[ratib@ratib.com](mailto:ratib@ratib.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$90

Kelly Reed Lucas  
2400 Lake Lansing Rd, Ste E  
Lansing, MI 48912  
(517) 485-0400  
[kreedlucas@loomislaw.com](mailto:kreedlucas@loomislaw.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$275

Kristin Arnett  
316 Taylor St  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
(517) 505-2323  
[kris@newburglaw.com](mailto:kris@newburglaw.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$150

Brenda Irish Heintzelman  
PO Box 121  
Williamsburg, MI 49690  
(231) 929-4737  
[missmensa@gmail.com](mailto:missmensa@gmail.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Gary Marsh  
330 East Liberty, Ste 3A  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 663-1239  
[gary@aamediationcenter.com](mailto:gary@aamediationcenter.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Joseph C. Basta  
2243 Twin Islands Ct  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
(313) 378-8625  
[joe@BastaResolutions.com](mailto:joe@BastaResolutions.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$275

Jessica Pospiech Heltsley  
39111 Six Mile Rd, Ste 161  
Livonia, MI 48152  
(734) 531-8554  
[jessica@mifamilylawfirm.com](mailto:jessica@mifamilylawfirm.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Angie I. Martell  
117 N. First, Ste 111  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 369-2331  
[angie@iglesiamartell.com](mailto:angie@iglesiamartell.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$175

Nia Bonds  
333 W Fort St, Ste 1500  
Detroit, MI 48226  
(248) 470-0902  
[nia@thebondsagency.com](mailto:nia@thebondsagency.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$250

Jeannine Julien  
7213 Pounds Court  
Howell, MI 48855  
(313) 801-0323  
[j9julien@gmail.com](mailto:j9julien@gmail.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$175

Thomas Moors  
PO Box 981242  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
(734) 434-3980  
[lawyer333@aol.com](mailto:lawyer333@aol.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$150

Stuart Collis  
1851 Washtenaw Ave  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
(734) 827-1337  
[scollis@collisandgriffor.com](mailto:scollis@collisandgriffor.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Elizabeth Kitchen-Troop  
483 Little Lake Dr, Ste 200  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(734) 302-7274  
[ekitchen@klinelegalgroup.com](mailto:ekitchen@klinelegalgroup.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Aaron Ogletree  
19700 Hull St  
Detroit, MI 48203  
(586) 447-2244  
[ogletreeaaron@aol.com](mailto:ogletreeaaron@aol.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$150

James Fraser  
220 E Huron, Ste 415  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 369-6448  
[jfraser@fraserlegal.com](mailto:jfraser@fraserlegal.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$175

Mathew Kobliska  
34705 W Twelve Mile, Ste 311  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331  
(248) 553-0800  
[mkobliska@dpkzlaw.com](mailto:mkobliska@dpkzlaw.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$250

Dennis Powers  
2254 E Highland Rd  
Highland, MI 48356  
(248) 887-8333  
[dennis@powersdlaw.com](mailto:dennis@powersdlaw.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$300

Richard Genesco  
39111 W Six Mile Rd  
Livonia, MI 48152  
(248) 770-3303  
[richg551@gmail.com](mailto:richg551@gmail.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$180

Veronique Liem  
213 S. Ashley, Ste 400  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 913-5517  
[vliem@shrr.com](mailto:vliem@shrr.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Marie Pulte  
1158 S Main St  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-8900  
[marie@pultefamilylaw.com](mailto:marie@pultefamilylaw.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

**LIST OF APPROVED DOMESTIC RELATIONS MEDIATORS  
WASHTENAW COUNTY TRIAL COURT  
July 2019**

Steven A. Reed  
2178 S. State St, Ste A  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 761-5860  
[steve@reedlawgrouppc.com](mailto:steve@reedlawgrouppc.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Phillip A. Schaedler  
201 W Maumee St  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-2832  
[adratty@comcast.net](mailto:adratty@comcast.net)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Elizabeth Solomon  
121 W Washington, Ste 300  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 994-3000  
[esolomon@nsssb.com](mailto:esolomon@nsssb.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$250

Linda Rosberg  
3654 Elmview  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
(248) 360-6549  
[ebr82797@aol.com](mailto:ebr82797@aol.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$100

Katherine Sharkey  
121 W Washington, Ste 300  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 994-3000  
[ksharkey@nsssb.com](mailto:ksharkey@nsssb.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$250

Melanie Klark Szawara  
123 Brighton Lake Rd, Ste 205  
Brighton, MI 48116  
(810) 229-9340  
[melanie@harrisandlitterski.com](mailto:melanie@harrisandlitterski.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$200

Monika U. Holzer Sacks  
121 W Washington, Ste 300  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 994-3000  
[monika@nsssb.com](mailto:monika@nsssb.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$250

Eileen J. Slank  
121 W Washington, Ste 300  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 994-3000  
[ejslank@nsssb.com](mailto:ejslank@nsssb.com)  
Hourly Rate: \$250

Zena D. Zumeta  
330 E. Liberty, Ste 3A  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 663-1155  
[zzumeta@igc.org](mailto:zzumeta@igc.org)  
Hourly Rate: \$250