

DISTRICT COURT MEDIATION PROGRAM

MEDIATION PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. The results of it will be used to document the effectiveness of family law mediation in Polk County. Participating in this study may provide you with a sense that you have contributed to increasing the understanding of and improving the process of divorce and family mediation services. Your participation is strictly voluntary and you are free to decline. Efforts to protect your confidentiality will be maintained.

1. Your mediation was:
 - a. Court ordered _____
 - b. Suggested by your attorney _____
 - c. Your preference _____
 - d. Other referral _____

2. What types of issues did you mediate?
 - a. Issues pertaining to a temporary order before the final decree _____
 - b. Issues pertaining to the final decree _____
 - c. Issues involving modification of an existing order or decree _____
 - d. Issues involving a contempt of court action _____

3. How soon before a hearing or trial did you participate in mediation?
 - a. A matter of days _____
 - b. A matter of weeks _____
 - c. A matter of months _____

4. How many mediation sessions did you attend? _____ How many total hours? _____

5. Considering the number of issues to be discussed in mediation, how many were addressed?
None _____ Some _____ All _____

6. Of the issues discussed, on how many were you able to reach an agreement on?
None _____ Some _____ All _____

7. Which issues did you mediate?
 - a. Parenting schedule: custody/visitation _____
 - b. Child support _____
 - c. Alimony/spousal support _____
 - d. Financial issues, i.e., assets/debts _____
 - e. Non-compliance with a previous decree _____
 - f. Other _____

8. Do you have a lawyer? Yes _____ No _____

9. If you do have a lawyer, did you talk with him/her (please check all that apply):
 - a. Before the first session _____
 - b. During the session _____
 - c. After the agreement was drafted _____
 - d. Not at all _____

If you didn't talk with your attorney, why not? _____

10. Would you recommend mediation to others? Yes _____ No _____

Why or why not? _____

11. I felt pressure, coercion, or concern for my physical safety or threats from the other party:
_____ before the mediation session
_____ during the mediation session
_____ after the mediation session
_____ never, not a problem
If yes, please explain _____

12. If you reached agreements in mediation, do you feel they are generally equitable?

Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain _____

13. Did your lawyer, mediator or mediation staff person speak with you before the mediation session regarding domestic violence or other matters that may have prevented you from feeling safe in mediation?

Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain _____

Please agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle SA for strongly agree, A for agree, D for disagree, SD for strongly disagree and DK/N for don't know or neither.)

- A. I was willing to come to the mediation session. SA A D SD DK/N
- B. Before we went to mediation, I was optimistic that mediation could result in a satisfactory solution. SA A D SD DK/N
- C. The mediation process was adequately explained to me. SA A D SD DK/N
- D. Preparing for mediation was adequately explained to me. SA A D SD DK/N
- E. My attorney adequately prepared me for mediation. SA A D SD DK/N
- F. The mediator did not take sides. SA A D SD DK/N
- G. The mediator allowed both sides to express their views. SA A D SD DK/N
- H. The mediator did not allow one person to control the discussion. SA A D SD DK/N
- I. The mediator asked questions to make sure we both thought the agreement was realistic and equitable. SA A D SD DK/N
- J. I was able to express my opinions in mediation. SA A D SD DK/N
- K. I am satisfied with our mediator. SA A D SD DK/N
- L. I am satisfied with mediation. SA A D SD DK/N

14. Did the mediator recommend a particular outcome? _____ yes _____ no

15. What was your share of the total fee? \$ _____

16. In your opinion, this amount was: _____ too much _____ about right _____ less than expected

17. Did you benefit from mediation? _____ yes _____ no

18. You are: _____ male _____ female

19. Length of marriage/relationship _____ 20. Number and age(s) of children _____

21. Your age: _____ 22. Ethnicity _____ 23. Education (highest grade level achieved): _____

24. Your Income: _____ \$0-\$10,000 _____ \$10,001-\$25,000 _____ \$25,001-\$50,000 _____ \$50,001- \$75,000+

25. Name of your mediator: _____ 26. Mediators learn from feedback. Would you be willing for your mediator to receive a copy of this evaluation? _____ yes _____ no

27. Your name (printed) _____ Your signature _____
date _____

28. Other comments: _____