

TWENTY SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT in and for  
DOLORES AND MONTEZUMA COUNTIES

STATE OF COLORADO

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-05  
REQUIRED MEDIATION FOR POST-DECREE MOTIONS TO MODIFY  
FOR THE 22<sup>ND</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Mediation is a process that uses a trained, neutral third party to help negotiate disputes between parties. In a confidential setting, the mediator helps each party communicate what is important to them and hear what is important to the other party.

Mediation can save time and money, reduce stress, decrease conflict, and improve the well-being of the parties and their children.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court has found mediation to be very successful in providing speedy, efficient, and inexpensive resolutions for all civil cases, particularly in family law.

Based on the demonstrated success of mediation, parties are herein notified the Court will order and require mediation for certain "Post Decree" matters including the *Modification of Parenting Time or Decision-Making Authority* as well as *Modifications to Child Support* when the parties cannot reach an agreement on their own. Parties filing the above requests to modify are required to serve the other party with a copy of this *Administrative Order* with their motion.

The Court will not require mediation, when the case file indicates a history of physical or psychological abuse by a party towards the opposing party.

The Court will not require mediation when a party asserts that they have been the victim of physical or psychological abuse by the other party and that they are thereby unwilling to enter into mediation (see C.R.S. § 13-22-313).

Parties who have been the victim of physical or psychological abuse by the other party shall simply file a notice that they not required to engage in mediation because of abuse.

The Court will not require mediation, when the Court finds emergency action is necessary.

Once ordered, parties will have 45 days to complete mediation in good faith. Parties will split the costs of mediation equally. Funds may be available to assist with costs and several mediators offer reduced fees for their services. Failure to participate in mediation by either party could result in a contempt citation and/or dismissal of their motion to modify.

The Court encourages parties to communicate before their first court appearance to come to an agreement. If parties are unable to reach an agreement, the Court will issue a case-specific *Mediation Order* with details of its expectations.

Parties shall contact Family Court Facilitator, Richard "Rico" Gallegos at (970) 565-1316 or [richard.gallegos@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:richard.gallegos@judicial.state.co.us) for further information and to see if you qualify for funding assistance.

SO ORDERED ON this 3rd day of May, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Jay Plewe", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat messy.

Todd Jay Plewe  
Chief Judge