



SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ADAMS COUNTY AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BROOMFIELD

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

2015-07

Mandatory Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

In an effort to provide an expeditious, expense-saving and fair alternative to traditional litigation in the resolution of domestic relations controversies, the 17th Judicial District (Adams & Broomfield Counties) will require that parties who file a domestic relations case or wish to modify a previous court order and who CANNOT come to a full agreement are required to participate in Mandatory Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) efforts to resolve their differences, with the assistance of a neutral party, concerning their children, property and financial issues.

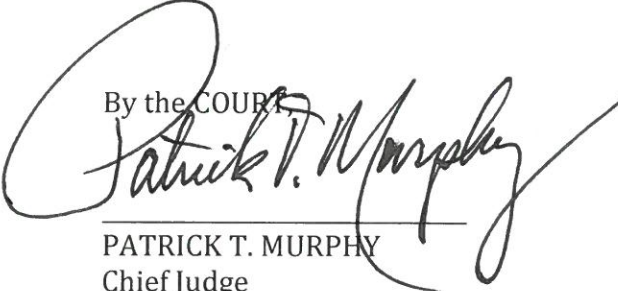
Parties and their representatives will be required to attend Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) sessions, Mediation or Early Neutral Assessment (ENA), but are not compelled to reach an agreement. Each party must be present personally at the mediation session and each party must pay for their own mediation fee. Payment assistance is available to parties who have an inability to pay. A completed Certificate of Mediation/ Alternative Dispute Resolution Compliance (JDF 1119) must be filed with the court prior to scheduling a permanent orders hearing.

The District Court judges have discretion to waive Mandatory Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) where good cause is found including but not limited to domestic violence issues or protection orders.

"Alternative dispute resolution" means procedures for settling disputes by processes other than litigation.

"Mediation" means a non-binding confidential process by which a neutral third party, selected by the parties to the case, assists the parties in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement. The role of the mediator is to assist in identifying the issues, reducing misunderstandings, exploring and clarifying the parties' respective interests and priorities, and identifying and exploring possible solutions that will satisfy the interests of all parties and thereby facilitate resolution of some or all of the issues in dispute. "Early Neutral Assessment or ENA" is a voluntary, client-driven process that helps parents reach agreements about their children, with the input of a professional team. The ENA process allows both parents the opportunity to express their concerns and wishes as they relate to their children. The ENA team provides neutral feedback, education regarding child development and the legal system and facilitates parenting time agreements. ENA services are only for parties with unresolved issues regarding children.

EFFECTIVE this 1st day of July, 2015.

By the COURT

PATRICK T. MURPHY
Chief Judge
Seventeenth Judicial District