

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

In Re Matter Of:

Petitioner,

CASE NO:
SECTION:

and

Respondent.

_____ /

ORDER OF REFERRAL TO FAMILY MEDIATION

A party has requested mediation of domestic relations issues (e.g., shared parental responsibility, time-sharing, paternity, child support and costs, distribution of property, payment of alimony, and modifications). It is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) that the parties attempt to resolve their differences with the assistance of a mediator. Pursuant to Fla. Stat. §61.183, it is, therefore,

ORDERED that:

1. The parties to this action are hereby referred to the Tenth Circuit Mediation Services.
2. **Either party to this action may request in writing to the court, with copies to the opposing party and Mediation Services, to be excused from mediation, if the party believes that domestic violence issues will compromise the mediation process. Upon filing of a written request to be excused from mediation, the mediation requirement is suspended pending a hearing. Either party may petition for a hearing. A written request to be excused from mediation must be filed and served within ten (10) days of the execution of this order, unless the alleged domestic violence issues arise between the execution of this order and the scheduled mediation.**
3. The parties shall, within three (3) days from the date of this order, contact the Tenth Circuit Mediation Services at (863) 534-4698 or a privately retained mediator to schedule a mediation session.

4. The mediator shall report to the court only information as to whether the parties appeared for mediation and whether an agreement was reached. The contents of any agreement shall not be communicated to the court unless and until it is reviewed by the attorneys for the parties, if they are represented and it is stipulated that the agreement be received in evidence.
5. The fee for each session will be assessed as follows:
 - a. No fee for an indigent party (party must apply to the Clerk of the Court for indigent determination).
 - b. \$60.00 per party if the parties' combined gross earnings are under \$50,000.00
 - c. \$120.00 per party if the parties' combined gross earnings are over \$50,000.00 but under \$100,000.00.
 - d. If the parties' combined gross earnings are over \$100,000.00, the parties do not qualify for the mediation services offered by the Tenth Circuit Mediation Services and must seek private mediation services.

Complete Policies and Procedures of the Tenth Circuit Mediation Services are found in Attachment 1 to Administrative Order No. 5-33.1.

DONE AND ORDERED on this _____ day of _____, _____.

Circuit Judge