

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF A PETITION TO DETERMINE OR MODIFY CHILD CUSTODY OR VISITATION.	GENERAL ORDER PERTAINING TO MEDIATION AND PARENTING CLASSES
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A Petition has been filed involving children. Parties to domestic relations matters filed in the Fourth Judicial District of Iowa are required to present a Parenting Plan in a form approved by the Judges of the Fourth Judicial District of Iowa or to participate in efforts to mediate their issues as provided by § 598.7. Parties to domestic relations matters filed in the Fourth Judicial District of Iowa are required to attend an educational program to sensitize them to the needs of children in a dissolution, as required by § 598.15. These requirements apply to all proceedings for dissolution of marriage with children, all proceedings for modification of custody or visitation, and all proceedings to establish paternity, custody or visitation. Domestic violence issues will disqualify the parties from mediation.

The parties in this case must file a Parenting Plan with the Court or schedule mediation within sixty days of filing on an Answer or other responsive pleading. The mediation session shall be held within one hundred twenty days (120) of filing of an Answer or other responsive pleading. ~~service of original notice.~~ **No trial date will be scheduled for this case, until the parties have filed a Parenting Plan or participated in mediation and attended the Children in the Middle Course. Each party must bring the required fees to the first mediation session.** Failure or refusal to participate in mediation, shall not delay entry of final judgment by more than six months. A copy of this Order of Court shall be provided to the party who filed the petition, and shall be served on the opposing party with the Original Notice and Petition. A copy of the Parenting Plan Checklist, the Rules pertaining to mediation, information regarding approved mediators, and information about scheduling the Children in the Middle course are available through the Mediation Center. The Website for the Mediation Center is swiamediationcenter.org . Attached to this order is the Domestic Relations Involving Children – Mediation Timetable which outlines the steps to be followed.

Failure without good cause to comply with the requirements of this Order, may subject the parties to sanctions, including contempt of court. Failure of either parent to participate in Mediation may result in adoption of a Parenting Plan without input from the party who does not participate.

SO ORDERED.

JUDGE, FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Copy Provided to Petitioner/Petitioner's Atty _____
Copy Provided for Service on Respondent _____
Case # _____
By Clerk _____