

**IN THE 21ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, ST. LOUIS COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI - FAMILY COURT DIVISION**

In re: _____)
)
) Cause No. _____
)
and/vs. _____)
) Division _____
)
)
)
)
)

FORM 15 – MEDIATION IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY FAMILY COURT

Local Rule Court 68.14 requires this Form to be completed in all cases and filed no later than ninety (90) days, from the date of original service of summons, filing of an entry of appearance, or after a finding of paternity. **The case will not be set for trial until the parties have complied with Rule 68.14.**

Mediation is a confidential process during which an impartial third party helps the parties discuss their parenting plan or other terms of a settlement in the case. The mediator cannot make a decision or impose a settlement upon the parties. If the parties do not reach an agreement during mediation, they do not lose their rights to a trial. All discussions or communication between the mediator and the parties, or their lawyers, is confidential and not admissible at court. No party in the mediation process can call or subpoena the mediator to testify in the legal process or produce any notes or documents related to the mediation. The mediator cannot provide legal advice to either party and both parties are entitled to seek legal advice during the mediation process.

The party filing this is the _____ Petitioner _____ Respondent. Please complete the following:

1. _____ **Mediation is Complete:** The parties have completed two hours of mediation and a mediation compliance report has been filed with the court.

2. _____ **There are No Disputed Issues:** The parties have no disputes regarding child custody, parenting time, parenting plans, child support, maintenance or property division.

3. _____ **Mediation is Scheduled:** The parties have agreed to use _____ as a mediator and have a mediation scheduled on _____.

4. ____ **A Waiver is Sought:**

a. ___ There are allegations of domestic violence, abuse, or that there is otherwise a significant imbalance of negotiating power and mediation is not appropriate for this case; or

b. ___ I request that the court waive requirements of Rule 68.14 for the following reason(s):

5. ____ **Mediation Needs to Be Scheduled:** The parties have disputes regarding child custody, parenting time, parenting plans, child support, maintenance or property division and have not scheduled or completed two hours of mediation and therefore:

a. ___ I request that the court appoint a mediator

b. ___ I request _____ be appointed mediator; or

c. ___ I request we be referred to Domestic Relations Services (“DRS”) and a DRS referral form is attached. *The parties acknowledge that development of a parenting plan through DRS is not considered “confidential mediation.”*

6. ____ **The Case is Not Ready for Mediation:** Certain information needs to be obtained before a productive mediation can occur. [NOTE: You must file a new Form 15 every 60 days until mediation is complete]

Petitioner/Respondent

Date

Attorney for Petitioner/Respondent

Date

So Ordered:

Judge/Commissioner

Date