

**TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATION  
Fifteenth Judicial District  
County Courthouse  
Coquille, Oregon 97423  
(541) 396-3121 ext.344**

TO: Attorney/Petitioner/Respondent in Domestic Relations Cases

FR: Ed Jones, Trial Court Administrator  
Fifteenth Judicial District

RE: Mediation Orientation & Parent Education Classes

Pursuant to ORS 3.434 and the Coos/Curry Family Law Plan individuals involved in dissolutions, child custody or parenting time disputes are now required to attend a mediation orientation program paid for through funds generated by the court. This is a one hour overview of what mediation is and how it may be helpful to the parties in these type of cases. In addition to the group orientation session those individuals who have minor children will be required to attend a parent education class and a minimum of one mediation session with a court approved mediator. The parent education class and the mandatory mediation session with a court approved mediator will also be paid by funds generated through fees collected by the court.

In instances where the parties and mediator believe that mediation will likely lead to the resolution of their disputes the mediator may petition the court to approve up to eight hours of mediation at the court's expense. The court will consider these requests as long as the mediation fund has money available to cover this cost and still provide the required mediation orientation, parent education and mediation session for parents of minor children. The court encourages parties to discuss mediation with the instructor at the mediation session and, if represented, with their attorney. It can be a useful tool in many cases.

Participation in the mediation orientation is mandatory unless an Order for A Default Decree of Dissolution has been entered by the court. For parties with no minor children you must complete your group mediation prior to the court signing a judgment of dissolution unless the court waives attendance for good cause shown by motion and affidavit. For parties with minor children you must complete the mediation orientation, the parent education class and the required mediation session prior to the court signing a judgment of dissolution unless the court waives attendance for good cause shown by motion and affidavit. If you do not complete the classes, sanctions may be imposed by the court.