

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**MATTER OF:
MEDIATION OF CONTESTED DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES**

STANDING ORDER

All parties in contested domestic relations actions shall participate in mediation prior to a final hearing on the matter. However, this rule does not apply to cases filed under the Family Violence Act, O.C.G.A. §19-13-1, et seq., legitimation, annulment, paternity or termination of parental rights actions.

Prior to the final hearing, the parties through counsel shall certify in writing that the parties have participated in mediation.

The parties are to share in the cost of mediation equally, unless otherwise agreed upon. Cost of mediation is set as follows: \$75.00 for the first two hours and \$75.00 for each additional hour thereafter. The length of the mediation session shall be determined by the parties and the mediator at the beginning of the session. All requests for fee waiver or reduction based on inability to pay must be made to the Ninth Judicial District's Office of Dispute Resolution in advance of the mediation session.

Nothing herein prevents the parties from participating in an independent alternative dispute resolution program in lieu of the one offered by the Ninth Judicial District.

SO ORDERED, this 15th day of May, 1996.

**Frank C. Mills, III, Chief Judge
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit**

**C. Michael Roach, Judge
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit**