

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI

FAMILY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE ORDER NO. 159

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER GOVERNING IMPLEMENTATION AND
OPERATION OF MEDIATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Family Court of St. Louis County was created by Sections 487.010 through 487.190 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Thea A. Sherry has been appointed Administrative Judge of the Family Court of St. Louis County pursuant to Section 487.010.3 R.S.Mo.

WHEREAS, on August 1, 1995, the Honorable Melvyn W. Wiesman entered Administrative Order No. 36 "Governing Implementation and Operation of Mediation Program."

WHEREAS, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 17, Supreme Court Rule 88 and Local Rule 38, the Court has adopted alternative dispute resolution which provides by means of alternative dispute resolution procedures for a disposition before or without trials of certain civil cases with resultant savings of time and expense for the litigants and to the court without sacrificing the quality of justice. As used in Supreme Court Rule 17, Supreme Court Rule 88 and by local rule, the alternative dispute resolution programs include but are not limited to arbitration, early neutral evaluation, and mediation among others. Further each circuit is encouraged to develop other alternative dispute resolution programs that meet the needs of the parties, the circuit and the community;

WHEREAS, the Family Court finds that an alternative dispute resolution program of mediation is an effective alternative process for dissolution of marriage, legal separation, paternity, custody, modification to such proceedings and guardianship cases;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Policy and Procedure for Mediators shall govern the implementation and operation of the mediation program within the jurisdiction of the Family Court of St. Louis County.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Family Court Administrator may implement, through such department or departments of the Family Court as the Administrator shall

deem most appropriate, policies and procedures consistent with the Mediation Program in conformity with the attached Policy and Procedures and such modifications as shall be made thereto;

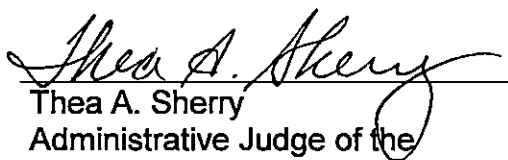
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Administrative Judge of the Family Court expressly reserves the right to modify the aforementioned Policy and Procedures from time to time and in such manner as the Family Court Administrative Judge deems appropriate in the circumstances. A copy of the Policy and Procedures including the "Application for Inclusion on Court Approved List of Mediators" is attached to this Administrative Order and is incorporated herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a list of Mediators who have certified that they meet qualifications set by the Family Court of St. Louis County for mediation for all relevant issues raised in dissolution of marriage, legal separation, paternity, custody or modifications to such proceedings and guardianship shall be maintained within the Department of Human Resources. This list shall be updated periodically and made available to interested persons upon request.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the mediation provisions in Administrative Order No. 158 are hereby withdrawn and are *null and void ab initio*.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Circuit Clerk provide notice of this Administrative Order by causing this order to be published as soon as practicable in *The St. Louis Countian*, by posting a copy of this order in a conspicuous place in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, and by making copies of this order available for distribution from the Office of the Circuit Clerk.

SO ORDERED:


Thea A. Sherry
Administrative Judge of the
Family Court

Entered this 18th day of December 2017.

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