

CIRCUIT COURT OF ILLINOIS

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

INDEX

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS ENTERED IN 2024

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2006-3 Amended	4/5/24	Child Custody & Allocation of Parental Responsibilities; Mediation/Attorney Qualifications; Parenting Coordination

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE) CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE
)
) ORDER 2024-1
ROBERT E. JACOBSON

Pursuant to the Illinois Supreme Court Rule 39,

ROBERT E. JACOBSON

having been selected by majority vote of the Circuit Judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, is hereby appointed to the office of Associate Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, for a term commencing March 1, 2024, ending June 30, 2027.

Date: 2/13/24

ENTER: *R. B. Rosenbaum*
Chief Judge Randall B Rosenbaum

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2024-2

SUBJECT: REMOTE DETENTION HEARINGS

WHEREAS the SAFE-T Act requires the in-person appearance by a defendant at a detention hearing unless the Court determines either that the physical health and safety of any person necessary to the proceedings would be endangered by appearing in court, or there are operational challenges in conducting the hearing in person;

WHEREAS the Chief Judge finds that the physical health and safety of correctional officer and inmates would be endangered by appearing in court and that there are operational challenges for in-person detention hearings, to varying degrees, in each of the Counties of the Sixth Judicial Circuit;

WHEREAS the Illinois Supreme Court has found statewide operational challenges, delaying enforcement of this portion of the statute, most recently March 18, 2024 (with an expiration of Sept. 18, 2024) – *See* M.R. 31888 (3/18/24):

THEREFORE: Until further notice, Defendants may appear remotely for hearings to deny pretrial release, at which conditions of pretrial release are determined, and at which pretrial release may be revoked, until such time that the Chief Judge, with the approval of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, determines that the operational challenges for in-person hearings on these issues are reduced sufficiently so that the physical health and safety of correctional officers and inmates would no longer be endangered.

Date: 3-18-24

ENTER: R. B. Rosenbaum

Presiding Judge Randall B Rosenbaum

**CIRCUIT COURT OF ILLINOIS
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 06-3

**SUBJECT: CHILD CUSTODY AND ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES;
MEDIATION/ATTORNEY QUALIFICATIONS; PARENTING COORDINATION**

**I. EXPEDITED CHILD CUSTODY AND ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL
RESPONSIBILITIES PROCEEDINGS.**

- A. In accordance with Supreme Court Rule 901 all child custody and allocation of parental responsibilities proceedings shall be scheduled and heard on an expedited basis. Continuances shall not be granted in child custody and allocation of parental responsibilities proceedings except for good cause shown and only may be granted if consistent with the health, safety and best interests of the child. The party requesting the continuance and the reason for the continuance shall be documented in the record.
- B. In any child custody, allocation of parental responsibilities or relocation proceeding taken under advisement by the court, the trial judge shall render a decision as soon as possible but not later than 60 days after the completion of the hearing.
- C. In accordance with Supreme Court Rule 922 all allocation of parental responsibilities proceedings shall be resolved within eighteen (18) months from the date of service of the petition to final order. In the event this time limit is not met, the trial judge shall make written findings as to the reasons for the delay and shall consider whether an extension should be allowed for good cause shown.

II. COORDINATION OF CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with Supreme Court Rule 903, whenever possible and appropriate, all child custody and allocation of parental responsibilities proceedings relating to an individual child shall be conducted by a single judge. Whenever a child custody or allocation of parental responsibilities proceeding (as defined in Rule 900 of the Supreme Court Rules) is filed and there is a child custody or allocation of parental responsibilities matter already pending before another judge involving the same child, the judges involved shall confer as often as needed and jointly determine which court shall control and hear said issues and shall consider the impact of such orders on siblings, relatives and parties in each case as well as whether consolidation of such cases may be impracticable because of the issues involved or the arrangement of courtrooms, facilities and assignment of auxiliary court personnel.

III. PARENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

- A. The Sixth Judicial Circuit approves Children's First and TransParenting as approved parenting education programs for the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The judge hearing the case may authorize attendance at another approved parenting education program if deemed appropriate and good cause is shown. These programs shall consist of at least four (4) hours of training covering the subjects of parenting time and allocation of parental responsibilities and their impact on children.
- B. Except when excused by the court for good cause shown, all parties prior, to the entry of a allocation of parental responsibilities order, shall be required to attend and complete an approved parenting education program as soon as possible, but not later than 60 days after an initial case management conference. The court shall not excuse attendance unless the reason is documented in the record and a finding is made that excusing one or both parties from attendance is in the best interests of the child.
- C. The Order requiring completion of Children's First, Children in Between, or TransParenting shall be entered at the initial case management conference in substantially the same form as prescribed in Appendix A of this order
- D. Each county of the Sixth Judicial Circuit will provide its respective contact number of its parenting education program to the Office of the Chief Judge.
- E. The court may impose sanctions on any party willfully failing to complete the program.

IV. MANDATORY MEDIATION OF CUSTODY, ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES, RELOCATION AND PARENTING TIME PROCEEDINGS.

- A. The Sixth Judicial Circuit shall maintain a list of non-judicial mediators involving custody, allocation of parental responsibilities, parenting time, and relocation issues.
- B. The non-judicial mediator's training and experience shall be as follows:
 - 1. completion of a Master's Degree in a relevant behavioral science, conflict resolution, or law degree, and specialized training in mediation as defined below.
 - 2. specialized training in family mediation shall consist of at least forty (40) hours of training with a minimum of five (5) hours in each of the following areas of knowledge:

- a. conflict resolution theory;
- b. psychological issues in separation, dissolution, and family dynamics;
- c. issues and needs of children in dissolution and family proceedings;
- d. mediation process and technique;
- e. knowledge of substantive areas of family law as it relates to custody, allocation of parental responsibilities and parenting time, domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse and mental illness.

This specialized training may consist of lectures, conferences, continuing education programs, graduate classes, seminars or specialized training programs in custody, allocation of parental responsibilities and parenting time mediation.

- 3. The mediators must participate in continuing education of at least ten (10) hours every two years in the above areas, of which two (2) hours must cover domestic violence, and provide evidence of completion at the time of attendance to the presiding judge in each county in which the mediator is listed.
 - 4. The mediators must agree to provide some minimal mediation service in the community for nominal or no fee for individuals meeting the relevant poverty guidelines in the community.
- C. The list of approved mediators in the Sixth Judicial Circuit shall be maintained in the Office of the Chief Judge and Office of the Presiding Judge of each county of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. An application for listing shall be filed with the Chief Judge in a form substantially as found in Appendix C of this order. A mediator may be removed from the court-approved list after notification and may appeal the removal to the Chief Judge or his designee within ten (10) days of the date of notice.
- D. If recommended by the Presiding Judge of a county of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the Chief Judge may authorize designated mediators for the approved list prior to the effective date of this order even though he or she has not obtained the specialized training referred to in paragraph B.2 if the said applicants have extensive qualification and experience in the mediation of family law issues. The mediator shall maintain

professional liability insurance which covers the mediation process and will, upon request, provide evidence of insurance to the Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court.

E. STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

1. DEFINITIONS

- a. Mediation. When the word "mediation" is used herein, it means a cooperative process for resolving conflict with the assistance of a trained court-appointed, neutral third party, whose role is to facilitate communication, to help define issues, and to assist the parties in identifying and negotiating fair solutions that are mutually agreeable. Fundamental to the mediation process, described herein, are principles of safety, self-determination, procedural informality, privacy, confidentiality, and full disclosure of relevant information between the parties.
- b. Impediment. When the word "impediment" is used herein, it means any condition, including but not limited to domestic violence or intimidation, substance abuse, or mental illness, the existence of which, in an individual or in a relationship, hinders the ability of any party to negotiate safely, competently, and in good faith. The identification of forms of impediment is designed not to require treatment, but to insure that only parties having a present, undiminished ability to negotiate are directed by court order to mediate. Mediation is based on a full disclosure of all facts related to the disputes so that a fair and equitable agreement can be achieved by the parties.

2. MEDIATION MANDATORY

- a. Matters Subject to Mediation. The designated judge shall order mediation of any contested issue of parental responsibility, custody, parenting time, relocation or access to children arising in any action unless an impediment exists. The parties may not proceed to a final judicial hearing on contested issues arising in that case without leave of court, or until the mediation process has been concluded and its outcome has been reported to the court.
- b. Prerequisite to Mediation. The parties referred to mediation by the court shall complete the parent education program prior to starting mediation or as soon after starting mediation as the parent

education program's schedule allows.

c. Commencement of Mediation. The mediation process shall commence as provided by Supreme Court rule. In no event shall mediation occur before a case has been screened for eligibility pursuant to safety protocols for mediators. The designated judge shall be advised by counsel and/or the parties concerning:

1. Impediment of the parties as defined in Article IV, section E(1)(B) of this order. Reason to believe that impediment exists should result in referrals that may address the impediment(s) to mediation.

2. other existing circumstances which would unreasonably interfere with mediation.

Mediation shall not be required if the court determines, upon motion of a party, that a case is ineligible for mediation. Said motion shall be supported by affidavit setting forth specific facts detailing why mediation would be inappropriate.

d. Discovery. Discovery may continue throughout the mediation.

3. REFERRAL ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE

a. Upon the court's order for the parties to participate in mediation, a mediator may be selected by agreement of the parties from the list of qualified mediators maintained by the Chief Judge or his/her designee. Absent an agreement, the trial judge shall select the mediator and assign the mediator a 45-day status date on the issue of progress of the mediation. The mediators shall be compensated at the rate agreed to by the parties and the mediator.

1. the court shall designate in its order what percentage of the mediation fee should be paid by the party and/or whether the case should be considered a reduced fee or indigency case.

2. the attorneys shall encourage the parties to mediate in good faith. The parties shall participate in mediation in good faith.

3. on or before the status date, for parties who are participating in mediation, the mediator shall submit a report to the court and the

parties' legal counsel, which shall include the information required by Article IV, section 7 of this order.

4. the parties shall contact the mediator within seven (7) days after the referral order is signed for the purpose of setting an appointment.

b. Conflict of Interest

1. If the mediator appointed has or had any possible conflict of interest, including but not limited, to a current or previous therapeutic, personal or economic relationship with mother, father, child, sibling, step-parent, grandparent, household member, counsel or anyone else directly involved in the case, he or she shall decline the appointment or disclose that relationship to the attorneys and may be removed for that reason. If there is a conflict, the parties may select or the court shall appoint another mediator.
2. A mediator who is a mental health professional shall not provide counseling or therapy to the parties or their children during or after the mediation. An attorney-mediator may not represent either party in any matter during the mediation process or in a dispute between the parties after the mediation process.

- c. Ethical Conduct. Inclusion of a mediator in the Sixth Judicial Circuit approved mediators list indicates explicit agreement by that mediator to maintain high standards of ethical practice. Failure to comply may result in removal of the mediator's name from the approved list.

4. MEDIATION PROCESS

- a. Commencement. At or prior to the initial session, the mediator shall:

1. determine the issues to be mediated;
2. explain that no legal advice, therapy or counseling will be provided;
3. disclose the nature and extent of any existing relationships with the parties or their attorneys and any personal, financial, or

other interests that could result in bias or conflict of interest on the part of the mediator;

4. inform each party of his/her right to obtain independent legal counsel;
5. inform the parties that:
 - a. mediation can be suspended or terminated at the request of either party and after three (3) hours of mediation, or in the discretion of the mediator as outlined in Article IV, section E(4) (a) (5) (b);
 - b. The mediator may suspend or terminate the mediation if an impediment exists, if either party is acting in bad faith or appears not to understand the negotiation, the prospects of achieving a responsible agreement appear unlikely, or if the needs and interests of the minor children are not being considered. In the event of a suspension or termination, the mediator may suggest a referral for outside professional services;
6. explain that the mediation process is confidential as outlined in Article IV, section E(6) of this order;
7. confirm the parties' understanding regarding the fee for services and any reduced fee arrangements for eligible parties with financial hardship;
8. Reach an understanding with the parties as to whether the mediator may communicate with either party or their legal counsel or with other persons to discuss the issues in mediation in the absence of the parties. Any separate communication which does not occur shall be disclosed to the parties at the first opportunity,
9. Advise each party that legal counsel, advocates, or other persons may be present only if both parties and the mediator agree in advance. Such individuals may be available for consultation for each participant while mediation is in progress.

10. Advise each party that children may be allowed to participate in mediation so long as all parties and the mediator consent to said participation, in writing, and that each parent or the child's representative or guardian ad litem, if applicable, has the right to withhold consent.

b. Reporting Risk of Bodily Harm. While mediation is in progress, the mediator may report to an appropriate law enforcement agency any information revealed in mediation necessary to prevent an individual committing an act that is likely to result in imminent, serious bodily harm to another. When the identity of an endangered person is known to the mediator, the mediator may warn that person and his attorney of the threat of harm; such notification shall not be considered a breach of confidentiality mandated by this rule.

5. APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS IN CASE OF IMPEDIMENT

a. Duty to Assess: While mediation is in progress, the mediator shall assess continuously whether the parties manifest any impediments affecting their ability to mediate safely, completely and in good faith.

b. Safety. If an impediment affecting safety arises during the course of mediation, the mediator shall adjourn the session to confer separately with the parties, may implement appropriate referrals to community service providers, shall advise the parties of their right to terminate and shall either:

1. terminate mediation when circumstances indicate that protective measures are inadequate to maintain safety; or

2. proceed with mediation after consulting separately with each party to ascertain whether mediation in any format should continue.

c. Competency or Good Faith: If an impediment affecting competency or good faith (but not safety) arises during the course of mediation, the mediator may make any appropriate referrals to community service providers and either:

1. suspend mediation when there is a reasonable likelihood the impaired condition of an

affected party is only temporary; or

2. terminate mediation when circumstances indicate an affected party's ability to negotiate cannot be adequately restored.

d. Effect of Termination. No mediation terminated shall proceed further unless ordered by the court upon motion of a party. In the absence of such an order, the case shall be returned to the docket for adjudication in the manner prescribed by law.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

a. Privacy of Sessions: Mediation sessions shall be private. Except as otherwise provided in Article IV, section E(4) (A) (9) of this order, the mediator shall have authority to exclude all persons other than the parties from sessions at which negotiations are to occur.

b. Confidentiality. Except as otherwise provided by law, all written and verbal communications made in a mediation session conducted pursuant to these rules are confidential and may not be disclosed by the mediator or any other participant or observer of the mediation, except that the parties may report these communications to their attorneys or counselors. Prior to the commencement of mediation, all participants in the mediation shall sign the confidentiality agreement prescribed by these rules.

c. Disclosure

1. Limitation of Disclosure. Admissions, representations, statements and other communications made, or disclosed in confidence by any participant in the course of mediation session shall not be admissible as evidence in any court proceeding. Except as identified herein, a mediator may not be called as a witness in any proceeding by any party or by the court to testify regarding matters disclosed in a mediation session, nor may a party be compelled to testify regarding matters disclosed during a mediation session as to privileged communications. These restrictions shall not prohibit any person from obtaining the same information independent of the mediation, or from discovery conducted pursuant to law or court rule.

2. Exceptions. Admissions, representations, statements and other communications are not confidential if:

- a. all parties consent in writing to the disclosure; or
- b. the communication reveals either an act of violence committed against another during mediation, or an intent to commit an act that may result in bodily harm to another; or
- c. the communication reveals evidence of abuse or neglect of a child; or
- d. non-identifying information is made available for research or evaluation purposes approved by the court; or
- e. the communication is probative evidence in a pending action alleging negligence or willful misconduct of the mediator.

7. ATTENDANCE AND TERMINATION OF MEDIATION

- a. Attendance. The parties shall attend the mediation session(s) and shall attend a minimum of three (3) hours of mediation. Further participation may be extended by order of court or agreement of the parties. Mediation may be terminated or suspended prior to completion of the three (3) hours upon resolution of all mediated issues.
- b. Termination or Suspension. The mediation may be terminated or suspended at the option of the mediator or the court.
- c. Notice to Court. The mediator shall immediately advise the court in writing if he or she suspends or terminates mediation or in the event that either or both parties fail to comply with the terms of this Rule.
- d. Sanctions for Failure to Appear. If a party fails to appear without good cause at a previously agreed upon mediation conference, or a mediation conference ordered by the court, the court upon motion may impose sanctions, including an award of mediator and attorney fees and other costs, against the party failing to appear.
- e. Termination With Agreement. When agreements or

partial agreements are reached by the parties during mediation, the mediator shall provide a written account of the agreements to the parties and their attorneys (if any), but the mediator shall not provide this written account to the court. The mediator shall advise each party to obtain legal assistance in drafting or reviewing any final agreements. The mediator shall advise the parties that agreements reached during mediation will not be legally binding until they are reviewed by the court and signed by the judge.

f. Termination Without Agreement. Upon termination without agreement, the mediator shall file with the court a final mediator report stating that the mediation has concluded without disclosing any reasons for the parties' failure to reach an agreement.

g. Reporting Procedures.

1. Mediator's Report. The mediator shall prepare a Mediator's Report in substantially the same form as in Appendix B of this Administrative Order within ten (10) days of the termination of the last mediation session. These reports will be filed with the Circuit Clerk.

2. Statistics. The mediator shall prepare a statistical report for each case and file said report at least quarterly with the presiding judge or his/her designee in each county in which the mediator is assigned to mediate cases.

3. Reports to the Supreme Court. The presiding judge or his/her designee shall provide for the maintenance of records of mediations conducted pursuant to these rules. The information shall include the number of mediations conducted, the number of mediations resulting in an agreement and those resulting in no agreement. The presiding judge shall file an annual report with the Chief Judge on the first Monday of February who shall furnish such information to the Supreme Court through its administrative office once a year or at such other interval as directed.

h. Appointment of Child Representative/Guardian ad litem. If the mediator has concerns for the welfare or safety of the minor child(ren) or feels that it is in the best interests of the minor, the mediator

shall recommend to the court in the Mediator's Report that a child representative or guardian ad litem be appointed for the minor(s).

8. ENTRY OF JUDGMENT OR ORDER

- a. Presentation of Order. Each mediated agreement shall be presented by the parties or their attorneys (if any) to the court within forty-five (45) days following the filing of the final Mediator's Report.
- b. Approval by the Court. The judge hearing the case shall examine the parties as to the content and intent of the agreement and shall reject the agreement, if any, if its provisions are found to be unconscionable or contrary to the best interests of a minor child. Unless the agreement is rejected, the court shall enter an appropriate judgment or order stating its findings and shall incorporate, either explicitly or by reference, the agreement so the terms of such agreement are also the terms of the judgment or order.

9. CIRCUIT COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

- a. Membership. The Chief Judge or his/her designee may establish an advisory committee whose membership shall consist of at least six (6) persons, including a family division judge within the Sixth Circuit, a practicing attorney-mediator, a practicing mental health professional mediator, and a representative of the domestic violence advocacy community. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the Chief Judge or his/her designee.
- b. Duties of the Committee. The circuit court mediation advisory committee shall advise the Chief Judge or his/her designee in establishing and implementing administrative policy consistent with these rules for the fair and efficient delivery of mediation services, including local rules of procedure, standards of conduct for mediators, and systematic review of program performance.
- c. Authority of the Chief Judge. Nothing contained in this rule shall be construed as a limitation on the authority of the Chief Judge or his/her designee to exercise administrative authority conferred by law.

V. ATTORNEY QUALIFICATIONS - GUARDIAN AD LITEM, CHILD REPRESENTATIVES OR ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN

- A. The Office of the Chief Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and each

presiding judge within the circuit shall maintain a list of approved attorneys qualified to be appointed in child custody, allocation of parental responsibilities and parenting time matters covered under Article IX of the Supreme Court Rules as guardians ad litem, child representatives, or attorneys for children.

B. In order to qualify for the approved list each applicant shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. each attorney shall be licensed and in good standing with the Illinois Supreme Court.
2. each attorney shall have attended the education program created by the Illinois State Bar Association for education of attorneys appointed in child custody, allocation of parental responsibilities or relocation cases or equivalent education programs consisting of a minimum of ten hours of continuing legal education credit within the two years prior to the date the attorney applies to be appointed.
3. to remain on the approved list, each attorney shall attend continuing legal education courses consisting of at least ten hours every two-year period and submit verification of attendance to the Chief Judge at the time of attendance or upon request. The ten hours should include courses in child development, ethics in child custody cases, allocation of parental responsibilities, relocation relevant substantive law in custody, guardianship and parenting time issues, domestic violence, family dynamics including substance abuse and mental health issues, and education on the roles and responsibilities of guardians ad litem, child representatives, and attorneys for children. Attendance at programs sponsored by this circuit may be included as a portion of this continuing education requirement.
4. each attorney must complete the Child Representation Information Sheet provided by this circuit in substantially the same form as prescribed in Appendix D of this order, and return it to the Office of the Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit in which he/she wishes to be appointed, with a statement or other verification of attendance at continuing education.
5. each attorney must adhere to the minimum duties and responsibilities of attorneys for minor children as delineated in Supreme Court Rule 907.

The Chief Judge may waive any of the requirements based on an applicant's education, experience, and training.

- C. Each attorney placed on the approved list and appointed shall be paid by the parties to the litigation as ordered by the judge handling the file or as agreed between the litigants. The costs for the appointed attorneys shall be paid as ordered and the court may enforce the orders and judgments as in other proceedings, including the imposition of sanctions.
- D. In the event the court deems it is in the best interests of the child or children to have an attorney appointed in a proceeding under Article IX of the Supreme Court Rules but finds that the parties are both indigent, the court may appoint an attorney from the approved list to serve pro bono. The presiding judge or his/her designee shall rotate pro bono appointments from the approved list.
- E. Each attorney on the approved list for the Judicial Circuit shall only be required to accept one pro bono appointment each calendar year.
- F. The Chief Judge of this circuit maintains the authority to remove any attorney from the list of approved attorneys based upon the failure to meet the listed qualifications or for good cause, including the failure of any appointed attorney to perform as provided in Supreme Court Rule 907. A listed attorney may be removed from the court approved list after notification and may appeal the removal to the chief judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, or his/her designee within ten (10) days of the date of the notice of removal.
- G. If recommended by the Presiding Judge of each county of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the Chief Judge may authorize designated attorneys for the approved list prior to the effective date of this order even though they have not attended the education program referred to in Article V, section B, par. 2 if the said attorneys have extensive qualification and experience in the area of family law.

VI. CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

- A. In accordance with Supreme Court Rule 923 in all child allocation of parenting responsibilities proceedings, an initial case management conference pursuant to Rule 218 shall be held not later than ninety (90) days after service of the petition.
- B. At the case management conference, the parties shall show proof of completion of Children's First, Children In Between, or TransParenting and provide the court with an agreed allocation of parental responsibilities and parenting time order, if available. The court shall schedule the matter for mediation if allocation of parental responsibilities, parenting time and/or relocation is in dispute, and may address any other appropriate issues with the parties.

- C. A full case management conference shall be held not later than thirty (30) days after mediation has been completed.
- D. The court, if allocation of parental responsibilities, parenting time and/or relocation is still in dispute, may, at a subsequent case management conference, appoint an attorney for the child or a guardian ad litem or a child representative and may discuss any other appropriate issue. A home and background investigation may be ordered at the case management conference or sooner if the court deems appropriate.
- E. At the original and/or the subsequent case management, conference the court shall issue a Case Management Order in substantially the same form as prescribed in Appendix E of this order.
- F. It is the responsibility of the Petitioner's attorney or the pro Petitioner in a contested allocation of parental responsibilities and/or parenting time case to request and schedule an initial case management conference with the court not later than ninety (90) days after service of the petition on the Respondent or after notice is sent to the Respondent. It is also the responsibility of the Petitioner's attorney or the pro se Petitioner to request and schedule a subsequent case management conference not later than thirty (30) days after mediation has been completed. The failure of Petitioner's attorney or the pro Petitioner to schedule such hearings may subject that party to appropriate sanctions imposed by the court.

VII. PARENTING COORDINATION IN DISSOLUTION AND FAMILY CASES

A court may appoint a Parenting Coordinator under the provisions set forth in Supreme Court Rule 909. Parenting Coordinators shall meet the minimum qualifications suggested in Rule 909; however, the court may modify or waive those qualifications and duties to the extent authorized therein. The court shall not require any governmental unit to be responsible for payment of a parenting coordinator's fees and costs, which shall instead be borne solely by the parties at issue. In determining whether to appoint a parenting coordinator, the court shall consider the parties' financial resources. Each county may proscribe specific rules for its parenting coordination program consistent with Supreme Court Rule 909 and this Administrative Order.

VIII. JUDICIAL TRAINING IN ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES ISSUES

- A. In the Sixth Judicial Circuit all judges assigned to hear child custody or allocation of parental responsibilities cases shall be carefully selected by the Chief Judge or his designate with

consideration being given to the judge's judicial and legal experience and prior training.

- B. All judges hearing child custody or allocation of parental responsibilities cases in the Sixth Judicial Circuit should attend and participate regularly in seminars and judicial education opportunities approved by the Supreme Court on topics dealing with issues related to child development, child psychology and family dynamics, domestic violence, alternative dispute resolutions, child sexual abuse, financial issues in such matters, addiction and treatment issues, statutory time limitations, and cultural and diversity issues.

Original Order Entered Nov. 8, 2006

Amended Order Entered Feb. 28, 2007

Second Amended Order Entered June 21, 2007

Third Amended Order Entered March 18, 2016

Fourth Amended Order Entered Oct. 24, 2022

Fifth Amended Order Entered April 5, 2024

/s/ Randall B. Rosenbaum
Chief Judge Randall Rosenbaum