**FORM A**

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_COUNTY

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Upon the Petition of  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,  Petitioner,  and Concerning  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,  Respondent. | CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ORDER FOR MEDIATION |

Pursuant to the Iowa Supreme Court’s administrative order of July 9, 2020, all Iowa judicial districts shall require parties in family law cases to participate in mediation where at least one party is represented by an attorney. You are therefore, if there is as least one attorney involved in this case, **ORDERED** to participate in mediation in an attempt to resolve the issues in this matter.

Both parties **SHALL**:

**Read “Introduction to Family Law Mediation,”** which is attached to this Order and can also be obtained from the Clerk of Court or at: <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/district-court/judicial-district-2/district-2-family-law-mediation/>

**Choose a mutually-agreed upon mediator.** If you do not select a mediator and file a Designation of Mediator (Form C) informing the Court of your selection within thirty (30) days of receipt or service of this Order, the Court will designate a mediator and you shall be required to use the Court designated mediator. A list of mediators can be obtained from the Clerk of Court or at: <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/district-court/judicial-district-2/district-2-family-law-mediation/> The mediator will help you discuss your concerns and possible settlement options in your case, but the mediator will NOT give you legal advice or make any decisions for you. The parties are encouraged to select their own mediator.

**Attend AND participate in good faith in at least one (1) mediation session within 120 days after service of the original notice and petition.** One mediation session is required, but you may find that attending additional sessions will help you resolve your case. Mediation may not be appropriate when there has been domestic violence. If mediation is not appropriate, you can request a waiver from the Court. An Application for Waiver of Mediation (Form F) can be obtained from the Clerk of Court or at: <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/district-court/judicial-district-2/district-2-family-law-mediation/>

**Each person shall pay one-half the cost of mediation.** If you believe you cannot afford to pay a mediator, you can request the Court allow you to pay on a reduced fee basis by filing an Application for Reduced Fee Mediation (Form G). This form can be obtained from the Clerk of Court or at: <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/district-court/judicial-district-2/district-2-family-law-mediation/>

A party or attorney shall file a Family Law Mediation Report (Form E) with the Court within 7 days of the completion of mediation. The Family Law Mediation Report form may be obtained from the Clerk of Court or at: <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/district-court/judicial-district-2/district-2-family-law-mediation/>

Any stipulation resolving some or all of the pending issues in this matter reached in mediation must be filed with the Court within 30 days of the completion of mediation.

Violation of this Order, including failure to abide by the deadlines stated in this Order, may result in the imposition of sanctions by the Court, which may include but are not limited to: a dismissal of the case; entry of a default granting the relief requested by the opposing party; an award of attorney fees; a fine; or a jail sentence. If neither party has made a good faith effort to mediate within 120 days after service of the original notice and petition, or if the parties reach an agreement and sign a stipulation yet fail to file the stipulation within 120 days from the date this matter was filed, the Court shall dismiss the case. The Court may enter a default judgment granting the relief requested by the opposing party in cases or may commence contempt proceedings on its own application or upon the application of the opposing party where one party has intentionally failed to comply with the mediation requirement.

No trial date will be assigned until the requirements of this order have been met, mediation has been completed, and a Family Law Mediation Report has been filed.