

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE:
IMPLEMENTATION OF INFORMAL
FAMILY LAW PROGRAM IN EIGHTH
JUDICIAL DISTRICT AND EXPANSION
OF MANDATORY MEDIATION IN
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Administrative Order 2021-2

As part of Supervisory Orders issued by the Iowa Supreme Court due to the Covid-19 emergency, the Iowa Supreme Court issued an Order on July 9, 2020, concerning family law cases. Included within this Order is a requirement that all judicial districts in the state of Iowa implement an Informal Family Law Program, for all family law cases where both parties are self-represented. This supervisory Order also includes a provision that judicial districts should establish procedures, where none exist, or continue existing procedures for mandatory mediation or mandatory judicial settlement conferences in all family law cases where at least one party is represented by an attorney. The following Order is entered to implement these changes in the 8th Judicial District.

1. Informal Family Law Program.

The Iowa Supreme Court on December 1, 2020, issued an Order approving the Informal Family Law Program terms submitted by the Eighth Judicial District. This supervisory Order will implement that Program in the Eighth Judicial District effective **March 1, 2021**. The clerk shall issue the Notice detailing this program in every family law case filed on or after March 1, 2021. Attached hereto as exhibit A is the Notice. When scheduling trials in family law cases, judges will begin setting trials pursuant to the terms of the Informal Family Law Program. Beginning on that date, in cases where both parties are self-represented, the court will utilize template **8OTIF** for the scheduling of such trials.


2. Revisions to Mandatory Mediation.

The Eighth Judicial District since 2010 has required mediation of all family law cases involving children. The District court judges of the Eighth Judicial District have

determined that the most efficient and productive way to implement further mediation in the Eighth Judicial District is for all family law cases to be mediated, regardless of whether the parties have an attorney or not, and regardless of whether the parties have minor children. As a result, for all family law cases (excluding those initiated by the Child Support Recovery Unit) filed on or after March 1, 2021, a Family Law Requirements Order will be issued when the petition is filed, requiring the parties to participate in mediation. The party bringing the case shall be responsible for presenting for the court's approval a draft Family Law Requirements Order. If the case is a dissolution of marriage with children, a proposed order which substantially complies with template order 8FLDC shall be used. If the parties have children in a non-dissolution marriage case a proposed order which substantially complies with template order 8FLR, shall be used. If the case is a dissolution of marriage without children a proposed order which substantially complies with template order 8FLDNC shall be used. Attached hereto as Exhibits B, C, and D, are said templates. The parties shall comply with the requirements contained in said order. The Clerk of Court shall ensure that when petitions in family law cases are filed, the Family Law Requirements order is presented to the court for entry.

Administrative Order 2018-9, entered in 2018, explained Family Law Requirement Orders, the processing of temporary custody/physical care applications, requests for temporary support, and stipulation of assets and liabilities. The terms of that Order are hereby reaffirmed. Order 2021-2 is intended to expand the requirements for mediation and not intended to delete previous orders concerning family law cases in the Eighth Judicial District.

Dated February 5, 2021.


Mary Ann Brown, Chief Judge
Eighth Judicial District

Copies to:
Clerks of Court/All attorneys in the 8th District/District Judges