

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

)	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff/Petitioner,)	FILE NO.: __ CV- ____ - __
)	
v.)	
)	
)	
Defendant/Respondent.)	
)	

FORSYTH COUNTY GEORGIA
FILED IN THIS OFFICE
OCT 05 2015
[Signature]
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT

DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACTION STANDING ORDER

1.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-1-1 the Court enacts this Domestic Relations Action Standing Order (hereinafter “DRSO”) which binds the parties in the above-styled action, their agents, servants, employees, and all other persons acting in concert with such parties. This DRSO remains in effect for as long as the case remains pending. The Plaintiff/Petitioner is responsible for ensuring that this DRSO is served upon the Defendant/Respondent at the time that the Defendant/Respondent is served with process in the underlying domestic relations action. The Court issues this DRSO in any action for divorce, alimony, equitable division of assets and liabilities, child custody, legitimation, annulment, determination of paternity, termination of parental rights in connection with an adoption proceeding filed in Superior Court, a petition in respect to modification of a decree or order except as to modification of child support, and adoption. The Court specifically excludes from application of this DRSO the following domestic relations actions: child support; any contempt proceeding relating to enforcement of a decree or order, any action on a foreign judgment based on alimony or child support; and any petition for protective order under the Family Violence Act or for stalking.¹

2.

DO NO REMOVE CHILDREN FROM STATE OF GEORGIA – Each party is hereby enjoined and restrained from unilaterally causing or permitting the minor child(ren) of the parties to be removed from the jurisdiction of this Court without prior Court approval, except in an emergency affecting the health, safety, or welfare of the child(ren) which has been created by the other party to the action.

¹ The civil docket clerk shall attach a copy of this DRSO to the original and the service copy of the domestic relations action pleading and provide a copy of this DRSO to the attorney or person filing the domestic relations action. If the action was filed by mail, the civil docket clerk shall mail a copy of this DRSO to the attorney or person filing the domestic relations action.

3.

NO HARASSMENT OF OTHER PARTY OR CHILDREN – Each party is hereby enjoined and restrained from doing, or attempting to do, or threatening to do, any act which injures, maltreats, vilifies, molests, or harasses or which may, upon judicial determination, constitute threats, harassment, or stalking the adverse party or the child(ren) of the parties or any act which constitutes a violation of other civil or criminal laws of this state.


4.

NO REMOVAL OF PROPERTY – Each party is hereby enjoined and restrained from selling, encumbering, trading, contracting to sell, or otherwise disposing of or removing from the jurisdiction of the Court, without the permission of the Court, any of the property belonging to the parties except in the ordinary course of business or except in an emergency which has been created by the other party to the action.

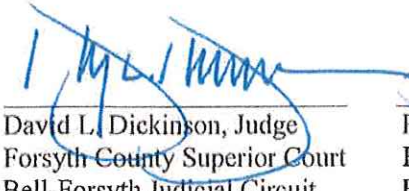
5.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION/EXEMPTION OF DRSO – Upon written motion of a party, the application of this DRSO shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis at a rule nisi hearing.

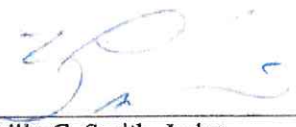
It is so ORDERED, this 5th day of October, 2015.



Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit



David L. Dickinson, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit



Philip C. Smith, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

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

**IN RE: INTERNAL OPERATING)
PROCEDURE 2015-02.)**

**FORSYTH COUNTY GEORGIA
FILED IN THIS OFFICE**

OCT 05 2015



PARENTING SEMINAR

Pursuant to Rule 104 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court enters the following Domestic Relations Action Internal Operating Procedure (“IOP”) which does not deviate from the Superior Court Uniform Rules or other laws and does not constitute an experimental rule as contemplated by the Rules of the Georgia Supreme Court.

In accordance with Rule 106 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court submits that the purpose of this IOP is to describe to litigants, especially pro se litigants, their ongoing obligations to comply with Uniform Superior Court Rules (“USCR”) 24.8. This Court has established a program designed to educate the parties to domestic relations actions, as those classes of cases are described below, in regard to the effects of divorce and custody actions on minor children of the marriage.

As such, all parties involved in any domestic relations action involving the issues of divorce, separate maintenance, legitimation, change of custody, or visitation, where the child(ren) are under the age of 18, are required to successfully complete a court-approved, certificate-bearing, parenting seminar. This requirement does not include, however, contempt actions, modification of custody actions,¹ Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act cases, uncontested/stipulated modifications of parenting time, or uncontested child support actions. Information about the classroom-based seminar can be obtained at: www.adr9.com and (770) 535-6909.

Minimum requirements for court-approval include: (a) four contact hours; (b) focus on developmental needs of children; (c) emphasis on fostering a child’s emotional health during periods of stress; (d) topics covered must include: include developmental stages of childhood; reactions of children to divorce; how divorce affects families; grief processes and coping skills; roles of divorced parents; co-parenting skills; financial obligations of parents; and mediation as a tool to resolve domestic disputes; and (e) verification of successful completion of the program.

A certificate of completion from a parenting seminar that is not on the Court’s approved list may be substituted if written verification is provided to the Court that the seminar includes the minimum requirements listed above.

The seminar must be successfully completed and filed prior to entry of a final order. Certificates of attendance are valid for three (3) years. The presiding judge may, for good cause

¹ If the modification is brought within three (3) years of the parenting seminar having previously been completed.

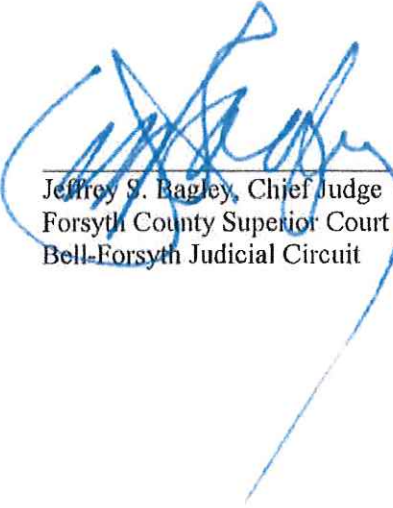
shown, waive the parenting seminar requirement.

In those cases where there have been allegations of domestic violence between the parties, the parties must satisfy this seminar requirement via attendance and completion of a court-approved on-line program to ensure compliance with the protective order stay-away directives. The on-line program is available at: www.childsharing.com. Parties in all other domestic relations actions may also elect to complete this requirement via the online program.

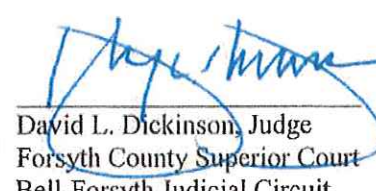
Parties are responsible for paying their own registration fees for the program and they are to be paid directly to the program coordinators prior to commencement of the parenting seminar. If payment of the registration fee creates a financial hardship upon a party the Court may, upon verified motion, waive or reduce the program fee that is administered by the Ninth Judicial District Office of Dispute Resolution or the online program that is administered by Childsharing.com.

Pursuant to Rule 104 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court has provided a certified copy of this IOP for filing with the Clerk of the Georgia Supreme Court.


It is so ORDERED, this th ✓ day of October, 2015.



Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit



David L. Dickinson, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit



Philip C. Smith, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

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

**IN RE: INTERNAL OPERATING)
PROCEDURE 2015-01.)
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**FORSYTH COUNTY GEORGIA
FILED IN THIS OFFICE**

OCT 05 2015



PARTIES WITH CHILDREN

Pursuant to Rule 104 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court enters the following Domestic Relations Action Internal Operating Procedure (“IOP”) which does not deviate from the Superior Court Uniform Rules or other laws and does not constitute an experimental rule as contemplated by the Rules of the Georgia Supreme Court.

In accordance with Rule 106 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court submits that the purpose of this IOP is to describe to litigants, especially pro se litigants, their ongoing obligations to comply with existing Uniform Superior Court Rules (“USCR”) related to domestic relations actions as those actions are defined pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-1-1(a) and USCR 24.1.

1.

All parties are expected to comply with Uniform Superior Court Rules and statutory requirements regarding financial data, domestic relations financial affidavits, child support worksheets, scheduling and notice of temporary and final hearings, and parenting plans. Litigants are directed to review O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15 and USCR 24.2, 24.2A, 24.4, and 24.10.

2.

In addition to the aspirational “recognition” requirements contained in O.C.G.A. § 19-9-1(b)(1), the Court also expects the litigants in domestic relations actions filed in this judicial circuit to recognize that the safety, financial security and mental well-being of the children involved in this case are the most important concern. It is the law that except in certain rare circumstances, both parents will share parental responsibility for all minor children involved in this case. The law requires that parents share the children’s time and participation together in making all important decisions concerning the children. The law expects parents to put aside their feelings and cooperate, in good faith, on all decisions involving the children. As such, the following guidelines shall also apply:

- A. Children have the right to a loving, open and continuing relationship with both parents. They have the right to express love, affection and respect for one parent in the presence of the other parent;
- B. Neither parent may alienate a child’s affection for the other parent;
- C. Parents must separate any bad feelings for one another from their duties as

parents. Their duty is to share the children's time and share in making parenting decisions;

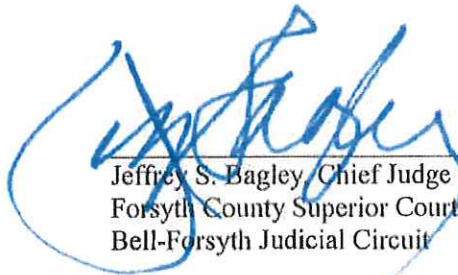
- D. Children have the right to never hear a parent, or a relative or a friend of a parent, belittle or degrade the other parent;
- E. Children have the right to be free of guilt because the parents have decided to separate. They are entitled to honest answers to questions about changes taking place in the family makeup. However, unnecessary information regarding the divorce case or other related adult subject matter should not be discussed with the children;
- F. Parents should never be so preoccupied with their own problems that they fail to meet the children's needs. The parties are directed to never forget that parents' separation usually has a worse impact on the children than on the parents;
- G. Each parent should openly, honestly, respectfully and regularly communicate with the other parent to avoid misunderstandings. Parents should never argue about the children in front of them;
- H. Parents should discuss all differences between them regarding their separation, financial issues and parenting decisions out of the children's presence and their hearing. Both parents shall always try to present a united front in handling any problems with the children;
- I. Children have the right to regular and continuing contact with both parents. Parents should arrange all visitation and exchanges between themselves and not through the children. The children should never be the messenger between the parents;
- J. Visitation plans should be kept and never cancelled unless absolutely necessary. If plans change, children should be given an explanation, preferably in advance and by the parent causing the cancellation;
- K. Common courtesies (politeness, promptness, readiness, calling to notify if one is going to be late) should always be observed during exchange of custody (e.g., picking up and dropping off children). These times can be very stressful on children, so it is imperative that parents always behave as responsible adults;
- L. Between visits, children should be encouraged to contact the absent parent by letter, phone, text, email, Skype, etc., in a reasonably frequent and continuous manner;
- M. A parent's access to children and child support are separate and distinct under the law. Accordingly, a child's right to access to his or her parent does not depend upon the actual payment of court-ordered child support;

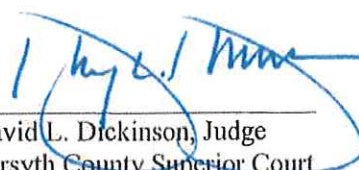
- N. A child should never be the delivery person for support payments or other communication between the parties;
- O. Both parents are entitled to participate in, and attend, all special activities in which their children are engaged, such as religious activities, school programs, sporting events and other extracurricular activities and programs;
- P. Parents should share information concerning children's activities and school information; and
- Q. Even during dissolution of marriage proceedings, parents should share the responsibility for such tasks as taking children to doctor appointments unless otherwise prohibited by court order.


3.

Pursuant to Rule 104 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court has provided a certified copy of this IOP for filing with the Clerk of the Georgia Supreme Court.

It is so ORDERED, this 17th day of October, 2015.


Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit


David L. Dickinson, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit


Philip C. Smith, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

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

**IN RE: INTERNAL OPERATING)
PROCEDURE 2015-03.)
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_____)**

**FORSYTH COUNTY GEORGIA
FILED IN THIS OFFICE**

OCT 05 2015

M. B. O'Connell
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT

MEDIATION

Pursuant to Rule 104 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court enters the following Domestic Relations Action Internal Operating Procedure ("IOP") which does not deviate from the Superior Court Uniform Rules or other laws and does not constitute an experimental rule as contemplated by the Rules of the Georgia Supreme Court.

In accordance with Rule 106 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court submits that the purpose of this IOP is to describe to litigants, especially pro se litigants, their ongoing obligations to comply with the Court's mediation requirements as authorized by the Georgia Court-Connected Alternative Dispute Resolution Act (O.C.G.A. § 15-23-1 et seq.) and this judicial circuit's participation in the combined alternative dispute resolution program within the Ninth Judicial Administrative District.

Parties in contested domestic relations actions are required to attend mediation prior to any hearing or no later than ninety (90) days after service is perfected, whichever shall first occur. Unless the parties otherwise agree, in writing, at or before mediation, the parties shall be equally responsible for all mediation costs. Domestic relations actions for purposes of this IOP are defined for the respective Superior Court divisions as follows:

- Division 1: All categories of domestic relations actions listed in O.C.G.A. § 19-1-1(a) except any contempt proceeding relating to the enforcement of a decree or order.
- Division 2: All categories of domestic relations actions listed in O.C.G.A. § 19-1-1(a).
- Division 3: All categories of domestic relations actions listed in O.C.G.A. § 19-1-1(a).

As to all Superior Court divisions, however, all actions arising under the Family Violence Act or stalking statute are exempt from the mediation requirements of this IOP.

Court-ordered mediation services may be obtained through the Ninth Judicial Administrative District Office of Dispute Resolution ("9th JAD ADR") located at 501 Candler Street, Gainesville, Georgia 30501 (Phone: (770) 535-6909). The parties may agree, however, to employ the assistance of a private mediator and to be responsible for all related fees and expenses associated therewith. Any such agreement must be in writing and filed with the Clerk

of Superior Court with a courtesy copy faxed or emailed to the 9th JAD ADR office in advance of the scheduled mediation. Should the case involve allegations of past or current family violence, the parties shall notify the 9th JAD ADR mediation office or private mediation firm in advance of the scheduled mediation so that appropriate security measures may be employed.


Where the parties have attended mediation as set forth above prior to a temporary hearing, and either a mediated temporary order resulted or the parties proceeded to a later-scheduled temporary hearing, or other non-final hearing(s), the Court will consider the prior mediation to have been suspended and may still order the parties to re-convene the court-connected mediation at a later date, prior to a final hearing.

Pursuant to Rule 104 of the Georgia Supreme Court, this Court has provided a certified copy of this IOP for filing with the Clerk of the Georgia Supreme Court.


It is so ORDERED, this 15 day of October, 2015.



Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit



David L. Dickinson, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit



Philip C. Smith, Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit