

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CURRY, OREGON

In the Matter of an Order Approving
the Coos-Curry Family Law Plan

)
) ORDER NO. 23046
)
)

WHEREAS, ORS 4.434(1) requires the presiding judge of each judicial district to adopt a plan to coordinate the provision of services to families involved in domestic relations or other family court proceedings; and

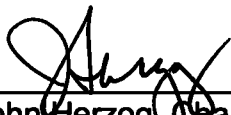
WHEREAS, ORS 4.434(4) requires the plan to be presented to the County governing body of each County within the judicial district; and

WHEREAS, the 15th Judicial District has reviewed and approved the attached plan to match their current practices.

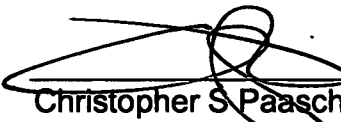
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the proposed Coos-Curry Family Law Plan, attached as "Exhibit A" is approved.

DATED this 16th day of February, 2022.

BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



John Herzog, Chair

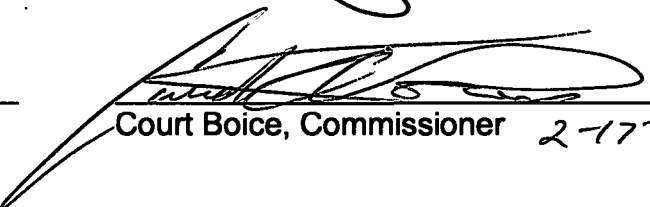


Christopher S. Paasch, Vice Chair

Approved as to Form:



Anthony Pope
County Counsel



Court Boice, Commissioner 2-1722

"EXHIBIT A"



**TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATION
Fifteenth Judicial District
Coos County Courthouse
250 North Baxter Street
Coquille, Oregon 97423
(541) 396-4063**

COOS-CURRY FAMILY LAW PLAN

ORS 3.434(1) requires that the "presiding judge of each judicial district adopt a plan to coordinate the provisions of services to families involved in domestic relations or other family court proceedings." Subsection 2 allows the presiding judge to "establish one or more committees to serve multiple counties." In the summer of 1998, Coos County established the Family Law Advisory Committee, at which time the Curry County Judges requested that the presiding judge of Coos and Curry Counties make the Coos Family Law Advisory Committee the Family Law Advisory Committee for both Coos and Curry Counties. It was agreed and this plan will be the plan for Coos and Curry Counties.

At a minimum, the plan is required to address three matters. First, it must describe "mandates for mediation of child custody or parenting time disputes, requiring each party to attend either a group or private mediation orientation." Second, it must discuss "methods for coordinating cases when the same child or family is involved in multiple cases." Finally, it must state the "need for, and provision of, conciliation services, mediation services, child custody evaluations, parent education and visitation services."

Individuals involved in family law cases with children, where child custody or parenting time is at issue, are required to complete the court approved online mediation orientation and parent education class. The cost for the online class shall be the responsibility of the parties. Parties without children are not required to attend. Participation in the online parenting classes is mandatory and must be completed prior to the court signing a judgment unless an Order of Default has been entered by the court or the court waives attendance for good cause shown by motion and affidavit. If future motions are filed by the parties and they are at issue, then the class requirements will need to be met by both parties. An in-person mediation orientation and parent education class may be substituted for the above requirements.

In both Coos and Curry Counties, and if funds are available to cover the cost of private mediation sessions, parties may voluntarily meet with a court approved mediator either in person or remotely by phone or video. The county will pay for a maximum of four hours of private mediation, which includes screening, at the rate of \$100.00 per hour. In addition, the county will only pay for one four-hour private mediation session per case. Parties in a dispute who wish to continue mediating or wish to mediate in future disputes may do so at their own expense. Parties may also ask a judge to hold a settlement conference to help the parties resolve their disputes. Parties with a current restraining order or other court order prohibiting contact will not be allowed to mediate.

Potential mediators must meet the minimum requirements as outlined in the *Oregon Judicial Department Court-Connected Mediator Qualifications Rules* before they can apply. Applicants will be screened by the presiding judge who will also be the determining authority. Mediators selected by the presiding judge shall be placed on a court approved mediator list, and only those listed will be entitled to payment through the county's mediation fund.

Coos and Curry Counties do not have a family law department. In Coos County, one judge presides over all juvenile cases. All judges share responsibility for dissolution, custody, modifications (if there are children), support, contempt and paternity. Restraining orders and guardianships of minors, other than guardian ad litem, are included as family court cases. In Curry County, the judges also share in the responsibilities as outlined above. Cases where the same child or family is involved shall be related to each other in the current data system by the court clerk. Parties may ask the court to consolidate cases for hearing or trial purposes by filing a motion and affidavit.

Currently funding does not allow the court to provide conciliation services, mediation services for property or spousal support, child custody evaluations, parent education or visitation services. Parties may seek these services, with permission of the court, but at their own expense.