

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

CX-89-1863

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

OCT 29 1996

FILED

IN RE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PILOT PROGRAM FOR MANDATORY
MEDIATION IN CONCILIATION COURT

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Fourth Judicial District desires to establish a pilot program to evaluate the use of mandatory mediation in conciliation court cases as described in the Conciliation Court Pilot Program Outline dated October 17, 1996; and

WHEREAS, trained mediators for this program will be provided by the West Suburban, North Hennepin and Minneapolis Mediation Centers which are part of the Hennepin County Community Dispute Resolution Program established under Minnesota Statutes section 494.04; and

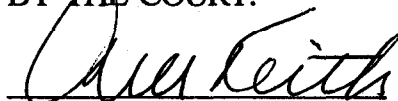
WHEREAS, the court is advised in the premises;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that:

1. A pilot program is hereby established in the Fourth Judicial District to evaluate the use of mandatory mediation in conciliation court cases scheduled for hearing from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997 (herein the "Pilot Program"). For any case included in the Pilot Program, the court may require the parties to participate in court sponsored, non-binding mediation prior to their initial hearing in conciliation court. If the parties are unable to resolve their dispute through mediation, the conciliation court shall promptly hear the case on the same day as the mediation session.
2. Minn.Gen.R.Prac. 114.07, 114.08 and 114.10 shall apply to mediation conducted as part of the Pilot Program;
4. The parties shall not be required to pay for mediation under this Pilot Program; and
5. Within sixty days following completion of the Pilot Program, the Fourth Judicial District shall submit to this Court a full report on the effectiveness of mediation in conciliation court cases, including the number of cases referred to mediation, the number of cases settled, and the impact and on, and perception of, litigants involved in the Pilot Program cases.

DATED: October 29, 1996

BY THE COURT:



A.M. Keith
Chief Justice