

Local ENE

St. Peter-Mankato

Chambers, Susan
(507)278-4700

Horrisberger, Paul
(507)340-7504

Finely, Gail (507) 317-0603

Panowitsch, Henry
(507)995-8850

New Ulm

Clark, Tracy (507) 276-3660

Gislason, Daniel
(507)354-3111

St. James

Kircher, Michael (507)375-3352

Marshall

Harrleson, George
(507)829-9373

Larson, Sara (507) 734-6834

Runchey, Barb (507)537-0515

Wacker, Jody (507)820-1285

Worthington

Lucht, Larry (507)372-2200

The Judicial Branch does not recommend or warrant the skill of individual neutrals or teams. Parents and attorneys should make their own inquiries about ENE experience and training.

Contact Info

If you would like to learn more about this valuable program please contact:

Alex Miller
Fifth Judicial District
ENE Coordinator

204 E. Brown
Luverne, MN 56156

Phone: 507-227-0342

E-mail: alex.miller@courts.state.mn.us



Early Neutral Evaluation



*Helping Parents Resolve
Disputes*

What Is ENE?

Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE) is a confidential process that can help parties reach settlements early on in divorce and custody matters. Parties who agree will be referred to ENE by the judge at the Initial Case Management Conference.

Who may participate?

Divorcing parents

Parents who are not married

Parties filing for divorce or custody

Parties who already have a decree but have a dispute.

Early Resolution

ENE can usually be scheduled within 7-14 days of the Initial Case Management Conference

Who Conducts ENE?

A team of two neutrals, one male and one female, conduct the ENE. Neutrals must be experienced in divorce and custody matters and have completed specific ENE training.

Cost

Neutrals are private practitioners who set their own fees. The typical fee for ENE is \$300 per parent. ENE fees are due at the time of the ENE. Some ENE may accept a sliding fee scale.

Financial arrangements for ENE are solely between the parents and the neutrals.

How long does ENE take?

A typical ENE session takes 3-5 hours depending on the issues involved. On rare occasions an ENE may require more than one session.

What are advantages of ENE?

Cost: Family Court disputes can be lengthy and expensive. Parties who are able to reach an agreement early in the process may save legal fees and other costs such as custody evaluations.

Time: ENE provides the parties a chance to settle their dispute quickly, allowing the family to begin the process of moving forward.

Children: ENE benefits children by helping their parents quickly resolve their conflict. When parents are in conflict over custody or parenting time

children suffer emotionally. The sooner contested court cases are completed, the sooner children can begin to regain a sense of stability.

Families Know Best:

ENE helps parents to reach a settlement rather than having the court decide for them what is best for their family.

Parents' Presentation

The parties should come prepared to present their issues and concerns on custody and parenting time:

1. What are the issues and concerns that prevent you from reaching an agreement?
2. What do you think should be the custody/parenting time arrangement. Give reasons.
3. What is the current parenting arrangement?
4. What is your proposed parenting plan?
5. Why is the plan in the best interest of your children?