

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT

ADM08-8003

**IN RE PILOT PROJECT ON
FAMILY LAW APPELLATE MEDIATION
IN MINNESOTA COURT OF APPEALS**

ORDER

The Minnesota Court of Appeals and the workgroup on Family Law Appellate Mediation have recommended that the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court authorize the Minnesota Court of Appeals to conduct a pilot project on Family Law Appellate Mediation for the management of family law appeals.

The workgroup consists of a number of Court of Appeals judges; court staff; law school professors whose areas of expertise are family law, domestic violence, alternative dispute resolution, and alternative dispute resolution evaluation; and a consultant whose area of expertise is alternative dispute resolution. The workgroup is chaired by Judge Harriet Lansing and includes Chief Judge Edward Toussaint, ex officio. A focus group of experienced Minnesota family law practitioners met to discuss guidelines and best practices for the project. The workgroup and the Court of Appeals reviewed studies from other state courts that have implemented family law mediation at the appellate level. These studies show a high percentage of success—in some states a greater than fifty-percent resolution rate. The overriding goal of this pilot project is to facilitate an efficient, amicable, and cost-effective model for resolving family law appeals, which will result in cost savings for both the private sector and the public sector.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Individual judicial officers within the Minnesota Court of Appeals are authorized to conduct a pilot project as approved by the workgroup and the Minnesota Court of Appeals, and the Office of the Clerk of Appellate Courts is authorized to assist in implementing this project.
2. Mediators selected for inclusion in the pilot project will abide by Rule 114 of the Minnesota Rules of General Practice.
3. Evaluation of the project will be on-going and include feedback from the parties, counsel, and mediators. Evaluation will focus on gauging the success of the pilot project in expediting the resolution of litigation, reducing acrimony, reducing costs to litigants, and better using judicial and administrative staff resources.

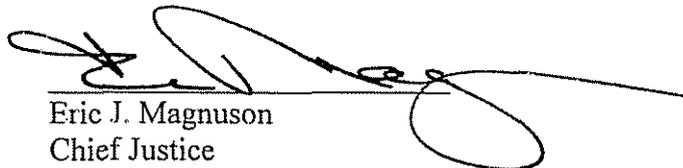
Dated: August 29, 2008

By the Court:

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

AUG 29 2008

FILED


Eric J. Magnuson
Chief Justice