

# Information Regarding Alternative Dispute Resolution

This Information Sheet is provided to all parties in custody proceedings pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 518.168.

Under Minnesota Law, alternative dispute resolution is required in all family law matters in district court, unless exempted by General Rules of Practice 310.01. Alternative dispute resolution includes mediation, arbitration, early neutral evaluation (ENE), and other processes as set forth in the district court rules. Parties may choose which method of alternative dispute resolution that best meets their needs. If you are a victim of domestic abuse by the other party or threats as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 518B, you are not required to try alternative dispute resolution and you will not be penalized by the court in later proceedings. If you have been a victim of domestic abuse or threats and would like to use alternative dispute resolution to resolve issues in dispute, some providers are skilled in the techniques that keep the parties separated and avoid the use of intimidation by one party against the other. You may contact the court administrator about resources in your area. Assistance may be available to you in some counties through a nonprofit provider or a court program if you cannot pay for alternative dispute resolution.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

- Alternative Dispute Resolution Webpage on Minnesota Judicial Branch Website: <http://mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/AlternativeDisputeResolution.aspx>.
- State Early Case Management/Early Neutral Evaluation Program Webpage on Minnesota Judicial Branch Website: <http://mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/ENE-ECM.aspx>.
- From the Court Administrator's Office in this Courthouse.
- Self-Help Centers located in the State (locations and hours available online): <http://mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Self-Help-Centers.aspx#tab02SHCLocations>.