

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #23. 2nd SERIES

State of Minnesota

District Court

Fifth Judicial District

Administrative Order No. 23, 2nd series

Date of Implementation: June 25, 2020

In Re: Order Revising Fifth Judicial District Social and Financial Early Neutral Evaluation Program Fee Rates

Whereas, Minnesota Judicial Branch Policy 520.1, Early Case Management and Early Neutral Evaluation Best Practices for Family Court, recommends that a district bench and bar steering committee determine program fees for payment to providers; and

Whereas, Fifth Judicial District Early Neutral program fee rates were initially established by the Ad Hoc Fifth Judicial District Family Law Collaborative Resource Committee in September 2013; and

Whereas, the Fifth Judicial District judges dissolved the Ad Hoc Fifth Judicial District Family Law Collaborative Resource Committee in September 2016; and

Whereas, the Fifth Judicial District judges considered and approved a modification of fees paid by parties to Early Neutral Evaluation providers;

It is hereby ordered:

The following guidelines shall be used in determining and assessing fees for parties participating in the social and financial Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE) process within the Fifth Judicial District:

1. Each party in a social or financial ENE session shall pay \$400 for the first four hours and \$50 per hour for each additional hour (plus travel fee if applicable).
2. A party who qualifies for in forma pauperis (IFP) status shall pay \$150 per ENE session (plus travel fee if applicable).
3. Each party shall pay an ENE provider traveling more than 25 miles to an ENE session a travel fee of \$35 per session.
4. To alleviate “no show” and “no payment” issues, pro se ENE parties shall submit payment to the provider two days prior to their ENE session.

Dated: August 13, 2020

Judge Michelle A. Dietrich, Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial District