

Lincoln County
Family Court Commissioner
Mediation Policies and Procedures

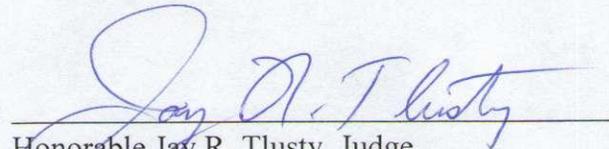
1. The Family Court Commissioner will be responsible for the assignment of a mediator to each case required to attend mediation.
2. The fee paid by a party referred to mediation will be determined by the mediator assigned to the case upon the completion of a sliding fee calculation.
3. The mediator will, in accord with the *Mediation Fee Calculation Worksheet* approved by the Circuit Court Judges on December 10, 2010, determine the party's ability to contribute either in full or in part, to the mediation fees incurred in their case and indicate the amount the indigent party will be expected to pay toward the mediation.
4. If it is determined by the mediator that the party is able to pay part or all of the mediation fees, the assigned mediator shall bill the party directly for the amount set forth in the *Order for Payment*.
5. The mediator will bill Lincoln County at the approved rate of \$120 per session, less any amount the party has been ordered to pay out of pocket.
6. The mediator shall not bill Lincoln County for mediation that is scheduled but not held due to one or both of the parties not attending. The mediator may, however, bill the entire hourly rate to the party who did not attend the scheduled mediation session.
7. All billing statements should be sent to Becky S. Byer, Register in Probate, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, WI, 54452, and should include the following: The name of the indigent individual, the case number, the date(s) of each mediation session, and the amount of time spent at each mediation session.
8. It is the sole responsibility of the mediator to bill for and collect mediation fees that are due from one or both of the parties. Lincoln County will not assist in the collection of fees that are the sole obligation of one or both of the parties and will not pay any fees that were ordered as the responsibility of one or both of the parties. If a party fails to pay the mediator as ordered, the mediator may file a *Motion for Contempt*.

9. The number of hours for which Lincoln County will have any financial responsibility shall be limited to four (4), unless the mediator is confident that extending the mediation for up to one (1) additional hour would result in resolution of the matter.

10. If, in the professional opinion of the mediator, it is clear that the parties are not willing to participate in good faith and reach a resolution through the mediation process, the mediator shall refer the parties back to the Family Court Commissioner for an Impasse Hearing with a written explanation as to why mediation was not successful.

11. Each mediator will be expected to review and sign the *Lincoln County Mediation Policies and Procedures* thereby acknowledging said policies and procedures and agreeing to follow the same. Effective January 1, 2011, no mediator may be appointed by the Family Court Commissioner without providing the Register in Probate with the original signed *Lincoln County Mediation Policies and Procedures*.

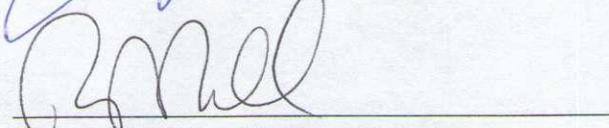
BY THE COURT:



 Honorable Jay R. Tlusty, Judge

11/3/15

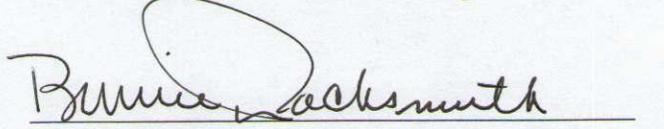
 Date



 Honorable Robert R. Russell, Judge

11/3/15

 Date



 Bonnie Wachsmuth, Family Court Commissioner

11/5/15

 Date

I, _____, have read and agree to follow the aforementioned *Lincoln County Family Court Commissioner Mediation Policies and Procedures* for any cases to which I am appointed as Mediator by the Lincoln County Family Court Commissioner.

 Signature

 Date