

LR12-401. Domestic relations mediation.

A. **Scope.** This rule applies to all domestic relations actions involving a dispute over custody or visitation of children filed in the Twelfth Judicial District Court, whether new or reopened.

B. **Application.** The Twelfth Judicial District establishes a domestic relations mediation program to assist the court, parents, and other interested parties in determining the best interests of children involved in domestic relations caes.

C. **Mediation surcharge.** Under Section 40-12-6 NMSA 1978, the district court clerk shall collect a thirty dollar (\$30.00) surcharge for all new and reopened domestic relations cases other than those filed under the Family Violence Protection Act, Sections 40-13-1 to -8 NMSA 1978. The surcharge shall be in addition to the filing fee required under Section 34-6-40 NMSA 1978 for all new and reopened cases. The district court clerk shall deposit all surcharges collected under this local rule in the “domestic relations mediation fund.”

D. **Mediation fees.** Each party shall pay a fee to the court clerk’s office to offset the costs of the alternative dispute resolution program before mediation has begun. The parties shall fill out a financial information sheet and their fee shall be determined by using the sliding fee scale approved by the Supreme Court.

[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No. 16-8300-015, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after December 31, 2016.]