

LR12-603. Civil mediation.

A. **Scope.** The court may, under Rule 1-016 NMRA, refer cases to mediation, in the discretion of the judge.

B. **Application.** This rule applies to all civil cases, whether jury or non-jury.

C. **Alternative dispute resolution surcharge.** Under Section 34-6-45 NMSA 1978, the district court clerk shall collect a fifteen dollar (\$15.00) surcharge for all new and reopened cases except domestic relations cases, which are charged a surcharge under LR12-401. The surcharge shall be in addition to the civil filing fee required under Section 34-6-40 NMSA 1978 for new and reopened cases. *See* Rule 1-099 NMRA for the definition of reopened cases. The district court clerk shall deposit all surcharges collected under this local rule in the “alternative dispute resolution 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.]