Rhode Island Family Court

Administrative Order 2019-1

RE: Mediation

Whereas, parties to a divorce complaint are free to engage a private mediator of their own choosing and

Whereas, the duties and responsibilities of private mediators are defined in the contract between the mediator and the parties and

Whereas , the internet facilitates the identification of mediators and provides contact information to those seeking to hire one and

Whereas, the profession has matured to the point where it sets its own standards for attorneys, social workers, counselors, psychologists and other professionals who advertise themselves as mediators and

Whereas, the court has no jurisdiction or oversight over private mediators,

Administrative Order 94-10 which provided that the court would send divorcing parties information about the nature and potential benefits of mediation and provide them with a list of providers who qualifications have been approved by the court is hereby vacated.

The court will continue to offer court-based mediation services free of charge to parties to a Miscellaneous Complaint and to those parties to Divorce Complaints who have been referred by a judge.

The court will no longer develop, maintain or distribute a list of "approved" mediators.

3/13/19

Date

C.J.

Michael B. Forte
Chief Judge