

**TEMPORARY PROGRAM**  
**OF TRIAL READINESS CONFERENCES**  
**AND ATTORNEY-ASSISTED MEDIATION**  
IN FAMILY LAW DEPARTMENT

Due to the mandatory training for eCourt, staff and Judges in Multnomah County will have reduced availability for hearings from **mid-March through mid-May 2014**. To assure prompt resolution of cases during this period of training, the Family Law Department has implemented a temporary program of Trial Readiness Conferences and Attorney-Assisted Mediation. This program applies to cases involving attorneys as well as those involving self-represented litigants.

**Parties with the Trial Assignment dates for the hearing types listed below will receive a court order requiring participation by phone in a Trial Readiness Conference conducted by the staff of Family Court Services.** The purpose of the conference call will be to assess whether and what issues are in dispute. Unless waiver is granted by Chief Family Court Judge Maureen McKnight or the parties report that their disagreements have been resolved and the case can be removed from the docket because a stipulated Judgment will be submitted, **the parties will be referred in this phone call to an Attorney-Assisted Mediation session.** This in-person mediation session will be held at the courthouse, probably one week after the conference, on a Tuesday or Thursday. The mediation will cover both child access and financial issues if both are in dispute. Attorneys may attend this session with their clients. If a settlement is reached, every effort will be made to place the terms on the record before a Judge that day. In other situations, draft Orders and Judgment forms will be available. Cases not settling will retain their place on the Trial Assignment docket.

Hearing types affected:

- Temporary Relief under ORS 107.095
- Trials for dissolution of marriage and registered domestic partnership, and ORS 109.103 custody/parenting time/child support trials
- Modifications under ORS 107.135

Enforcement matters, protection orders, and legal motions are among the types of matters that will *not* be referred to this program.

The Court has solicited and received the help of experienced family law practitioners to help with this project. We appreciate the patience and understanding of all as we enter the significant transition to eCourt.

This Trial Readiness Conference/Attorney-Assisted Mediation program is temporary and will end by Memorial Day in May 2014.