

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 266

FILED

AUG 28 2012

Re: Guidelines for Domestic Case Managers

CAROL G. GREEN
CLERK OF APPELLATE COURTS

The Supreme Court adopts the following requirements for domestic case managers pursuant to 2012 Kan. Session Laws, Ch. 162, § 18, *amending* K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 23-3508.

I. Appointment of Domestic Case Managers.

If the court or a hearing officer in a proceeding pursuant to K.S.A. 23-3401, and amendments thereto, determines that a case is appropriate for ordering case management of a contested issue of child custody or parenting time, the court or hearing officer shall appoint an individual that meets the qualifications to act as a domestic case manager as set forth in K.S.A. 23-3508, and amendments thereto, and in this Order. The district court in which the case is filed shall decide whether an individual meets the qualifications to act as a domestic case manager as required by K.S.A. 23-3508, and amendments thereto.

II. Qualifications of Domestic Case Managers.

To serve as a domestic case manager, an individual must meet several qualifications as summarized below:

1. The individual must (A) be currently licensed in Kansas as a licensed mental health care professional as listed in K.S.A. 23-3508, and amendments thereto; (B) be currently licensed to practice law in Kansas with at least five years of experience in domestic relations or family law; or (C) be a court services officer with training in domestic relations cases as prescribed by the district court in which the case is filed.

2. The individual shall be qualified to conduct mediation and have experience as a mediator.
3. The individual shall attend one or more workshops on case management as required by the district court in which the case is filed and shall complete a minimum number of continuing education hours as established in this Order.

The recent amendments to K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 23-3508 allow a court services officer, with training in domestic relations cases as prescribed by the district court in which the case is filed, to be appointed to serve as a domestic case manager. All court services officers currently appointed as domestic case managers at the time this order becomes effective are deemed to be qualified domestic case managers. Any court services officer appointed after the date this order becomes effective must meet the licensing requirements in K.S.A. 23-3508(d), and amendments thereto, to be considered qualified to be appointed a domestic case manager.

III. Education Requirements of Domestic Case Managers.

Any individual appointed, or who wishes to be appointed, as a domestic case manager must participate in continuing education consisting of not less than six (6) hours by December 31, 2013, and annually thereafter on a calendar year basis. In the event an individual serving as a domestic case manager establishes a hardship that prevents timely completion of education credits required by this order, the district court assigned to a case in which that individual is appointed as a domestic case manager may grant an extension of time not to exceed 90 days to complete these requirements.

Areas of education should include, but not be limited to, case management, domestic relations cases, and dynamics of abuse and control. The director of dispute resolution shall have authority to approve continuing education credits for domestic case managers and shall designate the credit hours earned for attendance at each session. For licensed attorneys, attendance at hours of continuing legal education that are approved by the Continuing Legal Education Commission, and that are also approved by the director of dispute resolution for domestic case

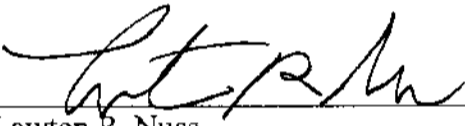
management education, shall apply to both the domestic case management continuing education requirements of this Order and the continuing legal education requirements of Supreme Court Rule 802. The minimum total hours annually required by Supreme Court Rule 802 are not modified by requirements of this Order.

IV. Maintaining Proof of Qualifications.

Each domestic case manager shall be responsible for maintaining any license that is the basis for qualifying to serve as a domestic case manager. Domestic case managers are also responsible for maintaining a record of completing the required number of continuing education credit hours. Upon the request of an appointment judge or hearing officer, the case manager shall present evidence establishing compliance with the qualification requirements of K.S.A. 23-3508, and amendments thereto, and with the education requirements of this order.

This order shall be effective upon the date it is entered.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT this ²27 day of August 2012.



Lawton R. Nuss
Chief Justice