General Order 01 - 12

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that by a majority vote of the Circuit Judges of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, the attached Amended Family Mediation Program 15.22 is adopted in and for Kane County.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that these rules may be adopted by DeKalb and Kendall Counties upon the written order of the Presiding Judge of that County.

ENTER this 20th day of June, 2001.

Grant S. Wegner, Chief Judge

James M. Wilson

F. Keith Brown

Thomas E. Hogan

Philip L. DiMarzio

Douglas Engel

James T. Doyle

Donald J. Fabian

Donald C. Hudson

Patrick J. Dixon

Michael J. Colwell

Pamela K. Jensen

Gene L. Nottolini

Timothy Q. Sheldon

Kurt P. Klein

15.22 AMENDED FAMILY MEDIATION PROGRAM

(a) **Definitions**

Mediation is a cooperative process for resolving conflict with the assistance of a trained, neutral third party, whose role is to facilitate communication, to assist the parties in identifying issues needing to be resolved, exploring options, negotiating acceptable solutions, and reaching agreement on the issues. Fundamental to the mediation process described herein are principles of cooperation, informality, privacy, confidentiality, self-determination, and full disclosure by the parties of relevant information. Mediation under this rule is a means for parties to maintain control of parenting decisions, by resolving themselves the issues of custody, visitation, removal, and other non-financial children's issues. Parties are encouraged to participate in the mediation process by attempting good faith negotiation and resolution of the issues brought to mediation.

Mediation under this rule is not to be considered a substitute for independent legal advice. Instead, it is to work in partnership with the attorneys and the legal process, by giving the parties the ability to be fully informed of options for resolution of their issues, which would include obtaining legal advice before, during, and after the mediation process.

"Impediment to mediation" means any condition, including but not limited to domestic violence or intimidation, substance abuse, child abuse, mental illness or a cognitive impairment, which hinders the ability of a party to negotiate safely, competently, and in good faith. Pursuant to these rules, the identification of impediments in a case is necessary to determine if mediation should be required, and to insure that only parties having a present, undiminished ability to negotiate are directed by the Court under this rule to mediate.

(b) **Subject Matter of Mediation**

Court referred mediation will be limited to disputes involving child custody, visitation, removal, or other non-economic issues

relating to the child or children, either prior to dissolution of a marriage or post-judgment.

Mediation may be ordered by the Court for resolving family law issues other than child custody, visitation, removal, or non-economic issues relating to the child or children only if the parties and their attorneys agree. For mediation of these other issues, the Court shall take into account the qualifications and professional background of the individual mediator appointed.

(c) **Prerequisite to Mediation**

For any county having an established parent education program, the parties referred to mediation by the Court shall complete the parent education program prior to starting mediation or as soon after starting mediation as the parent education program's schedule allows.

The mediator shall screen for the identification of cases that may be deemed as inappropriate for mediation under this rule, in that these cases contain some type of impairment as defined under paragraph a (Definitions)

(d) **Qualifications and Requirements of Dissolution Mediator**

(1) Any person who meets the following criteria is eligible to serve as a mediator for the purposes of this rule:

(a) Satisfactory completion of 40 hour divorce mediation training program approved by the Court. In addition, the applicant must have completed training specific to domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse and mental illness, which gives the applicant an understanding of the issues related to these impairments and one's ability to negotiate effectively when impacted by one or more of these impairments.

(b) The applicant has been awarded a degree in law or in a

graduate degree in a field that includes the study of psychiatry, psychology, social work, human development, family counseling, or other behavioral science substantially related to marriage and family interpersonal relationships, or a related field otherwise approved by a Presiding Judge of the Family Court, or his or her designee.

(c) Member in good standing in the professional organization of his/her respective disciplines.

(d) Proof of professional liability insurance which covers the mediation process.

(e) Minimum of two years of work experience in their discipline or profession, or otherwise supervised by a qualified mediator.

(f) Maintain an office in the respective county where the Court is located, unless otherwise allowed by the Presiding Judge of Family Court, or his or her designee.

(g) Prior to the passage of this rule, all persons approved to act as mediators under any existing Court mediation program in this Circuit, shall continue to do so without further approval.

(2) All persons meeting the requirements above who are interested in acting as a Court Appointed Mediator shall provide proof by way of affidavit which is supported by documentation of the aforesaid requirements to the Presiding Judges of the Family Court in each county of the 16th Circuit, or the person designated to receive such material in each county.

(3) A periodic list shall be prepared by the Presiding Judges of the Family Court in each county of the 16th Circuit, or the person designated to keep such list in each county.

(4) A mediator shall participate in six hours of continuing education

every two years from programs approved by the Court, and be personally responsible for ongoing professional growth. A mediator is encouraged to join with other mediators and members of related professions to promote mutual professional development.

(5) The Court mediators may be required from time to time to attend specific training offered or sponsored by the Family Mediation Program, the Bar Associations or other individuals or organizations.

(6) A mediator shall mediate two low income cases, as identified by the court, per year at a reduced fee.

(e) **Referral Procedure**

(1) Kane County. Upon the Court's order or the parties' agreement to participate in mediation, the case shall be assigned a mediator. This mediator may be chosen per agreement of the parties. In absence of any agreement, the Court shall assign a mediator from a list of qualified mediators prepared and kept by the Presiding Judge of the Family Division. A Mediation Order shall be issued and signed by the Court. A mediation status date will be set for no later than 60 days from the date the Mediation Order was issued.

(2) Other Counties. Upon the Court's order for the parties to participate in mediation, a mediator shall be assigned in accordance with the procedures established in that county from the list of qualified mediators prepared by the Presiding Judge of Family Court or the person designated to prepare said list, and a 60 day hearing date shall be set for the status of the mediation process.

(3) Judges assigned cases with child custody and/or visitation issues may make the necessary findings to order mediation. The Court may also designate in its order what percentage of the mediation fee should be paid by each party and/or whether the case should be considered a low income case.

(4) Parties are not obligated to participate in the mediation process until ordered by the Court or agreed to by the parties. The attorneys shall encourage their clients to mediate in good faith, and the parties shall participate in mediation in good faith.

(5) If the mediator appointed has any conflict of interest, another mediator shall be appointed by the Court from the list. If the mediator appointed on a designated low income case has already met his or her annual requirement for mediating low income cases and cannot or does not wish to take another, and informs the Court, the Court shall appoint another mediator that has not reached the required quota or is willing to take low income cases in excess of two cases per year. The Presiding Judge of Family Court of every county or the person designated shall keep a record of low income cases assigned to each mediator, to ensure fair distribution of these cases to all mediators.

(6) By the status date, the mediator shall submit a report to the Court and the parties' legal counsel, in the form of a Mediator Report, notifying the Court and legal counsel of information listed in this rule under the section entitled Mediator Report.

(f) **Conflict of Interest**

(1) Conflicts of interest – Generally: In order to avoid the appearance of impropriety, a mediator who has represented or has had a professional relationship with either party prior to the mediation may not mediate the dispute unless the prior relationship is fully disclosed to both parties and each party consents in writing to the participation of the mediator notwithstanding the prior relationship. A mediator who is a mental health professional shall not provide counseling or therapy to the parties during the mediation process. An attorney-mediator may not represent either party in any matter during the mediation process or in a dispute between the parties after the mediation process.

(2) Imputed Disqualification: No mediator associated with a law firm or a counseling agency shall mediate a dispute when the mediator knows or reasonably should know that another attorney or counselor associated with that firm or agency would be prohibited from undertaking the mediation.

(3) Exception: A therapist-mediator who would otherwise be disqualified from mediation as a result of imputed disqualification, may undertake the mediation only under the following circumstances:

(a) There has been full disclosure to both parties about the conflict of interest and the imputed disqualification of the mediator, including the extent to which information is shared by personnel within the agency; and

(b) Both parties consent to the mediation in writing.

(g) **Exclusionary Rule**

The mediator shall be barred from testifying as to confidential mediation issues, and mediation records shall not be subpoenaed in any proceeding except by leave of the Court for good cause shown.

(h) **Orientation Session**

At the orientation session, a mediator shall inform the parties of the following:

(1) Neither therapy nor marriage counseling are part of the mediator's function.

(2) No legal advice will be given by the mediator.

(3) An attorney-mediator will not act as an attorney for either or both parties and no attorney-client relationship will be formed. Thus the attorney-client privilege will

not apply.

(4) The rules pertaining to confidentiality, as outlined in Paragraph g.

(5) The basis for termination of mediation, as outlined in Paragraph j.

(6) The proposed resolution of the mediated issues will be documented in a written summary. This summary will form the basis of the formal mediated agreement presented to the Court for approval.

(7) Each party shall be strongly encouraged to obtain independent legal counsel to assist and advise him or her throughout the mediation.

(8) Legal counsel for either party will not be present at any mediation session without the agreement of the parties and the mediator.

(i) **The Mediation Process**

Agreement to Mediate. At the initial session the mediator shall provide the parties with a written agreement outlining the guidelines under which mediation shall occur and the expectations of the parties and mediator. This initial agreement shall include at a minimum, all of the foregoing information in Paragraph h. Either or both of the parties shall be permitted to consult their respective legal counsel before executing this agreement.

The mediator shall assess the ability and willingness of the parties to mediate at the orientation session and throughout the process, and shall advise the parties in the event the case is inappropriate for mediation.

(j) **Termination of Mediation**

The parties shall attend mediation until such time as they shall reach an agreement on the issues or the mediator or the Court suspends or terminates mediation. The mediator shall immediately advise the Court in writing if he or she suspends or terminates mediation or in the event that either or both parties fail to comply with the terms of this paragraph.

(k) **Mediator Report**

(1) The report to the Court shall state the following:

(a) Whether an agreement has been reached by the parties and a summary of that agreement.

(b) The number and duration of sessions conducted to date.

(c) The fee charged, whether that fee has been paid in full, and if not, the outstanding amount owed. For an outstanding amount owed, the Court may direct the parties to pay said amount and establish what percentage should be paid by such party.

(d) Whether the parties have reviewed the summary of agreement.

(e) Whether any additional mediation sessions are recommended based on the likelihood of success.

(f) Other relevant information not considered confidential under this rule.

(2) In the event an agreement is reached on any of the issues, the mediator shall supply a written summary

of the agreement to counsel and the Court and the same shall be included in any order or judgment disposing of the dispute.

(3) In the event an agreement is not reached on all issues, the mediator shall identify to the Court and counsel the issues remaining unresolved.

(4) The mediator shall advise the Court as to the time necessary for the completion of the mediation process. It shall be within the Court's discretion to extend mediation after the 60 day status date.

(l) **Discovery**

(1) Only written discovery shall be allowed until mediation is terminated by order of the Court.

(m) **Payment of Fees**

The mediator shall charge an hourly fee to the parties no higher than $150.00 per hour to be shared equally by the parties, unless the Court directs otherwise in an order or otherwise agreed by the parties. This hourly fee shall be paid to the mediator at the time of each session for the time spent in mediation at the session. Along with the hourly fee, the mediator may request an advance deposit of $300.00 to be paid at the first session. Such deposit may be applied to services rendered by the mediator outside of the mediation session, such as telephone conferences, correspondence, consultation with attorneys or other individuals, preparation of the Mediator Report, and any other work performed by the mediator on behalf of the parties. Any additional fees that exceed the deposit or the fees collected at the time of sessions or services rendered by the mediator shall be paid as required by the mediator. In the event payments are not made as require under this rule, or otherwise agreed to by the mediator and the parties, the mediation process may be suspended by the mediator pending compliance.

(n) **Statistics**

(1) Kane County. The director of the KIDS Parent Education Program or a designee will be responsible for all statistical data. Data shall include the number of cases referred to mediation, the number of low-income cases referred, the outcome of cases, and the number and duration of sessions per case.

(o) This Amended Family Mediation Program Rule supercedes the previous Family Mediation Program Rule implemented.

GENERAL ORDER 01-11

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that by a majority vote of the Circuit Judges of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, the attached Civil Proceedings, Articles 6, 7 and 9 and Amended Article 11 is adopted in and for Kane County.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that these rules may be adopted by DeKalb and Kendall Counties upon the written order of the Presiding Judge of that County.

ENTER this 20 day of June, 2001.

Grant S. Wegner
Chief Judge

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2001 JUN 20 P 2: 22
BARBARA SEYLLER
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
KANE COUNTY, IL

II. CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

ARTICLE 6: PLEADINGS, MOTIONS, AND CONFERENCES

6.01 CASE MANAGEMENT AND SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

(a) Case Management Conference

(i) In all cases designated L, LM ($30,000 to $50,000), CH, MR, TX, MC, and ED the Clerk of the Court shall, on the date of filing, assign an automatic case management conference date on the call of the judge assigned the case within 120 days from the date of filing. The Clerk shall affix notice of said date to the original pleading and to copies of said pleading to be served on the opposing party.

(ii) In the event an automatic case management conference falls on a date when the Court is not in session, the case will be set for the next court date.

(iii) Failure of the parties or their counsel to appear on an automatic case management conference date may result in dismissal for want of prosecution, default and/or other sanctions.

(iv) In all cases subject to the *Supreme Court Rules*, the attorneys for the parties with responsibility for trial of the case shall, prior to the automatic case management conference and each conference thereafter, confer regarding matters set forth in the *Supreme Court Rules*.

(v) Failure to comply with the *Supreme Court Rules*, local rules or court orders pertaining to case management may result in sanctions being imposed against a party and/or attorney.

(b) Settlement Conference

In the event a settlement conference is held, the attorney for the plaintiff shall prepare a pretrial memorandum substantially in

the form set forth in the appendix of forms and shall deliver a copy to the judge and to counsel of record at the time of the settlement conference. At the settlement conference the attorneys present shall:

(i) be familiar with the case; and

(ii) be authorized to act in furtherance of the settlement conference; and

(iii) have ascertained in advance the extent of authority given by their client to act in furtherance of settlement.

6.02 CLERK'S NOTICE: DISMISSAL FOR WANT OF PROSECUTION.

Within ten (10) days of the entry of an order of dismissal for want of prosecution the Clerk of the Court shall, in deference to all pro se parties and all attorneys of record, send notice of the dismissal to the last known address indicated in the file by regular mail and place of record a certificate of mailing.

6.03 DISMISSAL FOR LACK OF ACTIVITY.

If a case assigned to the Civil Trial Division or the Chancery and Miscellaneous Division has no order entered for a period of nine (9) months and has no future date, the Clerk of the Court shall notify the attorneys of record together with any person who has filed an appearance and given an address that the case will be called on a date certain at which time it will be dismissed except for good cause shown.

6.04 PLEADINGS TO BE READILY COMPREHENSIBLE.

(a) If a pleading contains multiple counts or affirmative defenses, each count or defense shall bear a concise title stating the theory of liability or defense. If the pleading is filed on behalf of or against multiple parties and all such parties are not asserting the same claims or defenses as to all opposing parties, the title of each count or defense shall also concisely designate the subgroup of parties to which it pertains.

(b) If incorporation of facts by reference to another pleading or to another part of the same pleading permitted by *Supreme Court*

Rule will render a pleading not readily comprehensible, the facts shall be re-alleged verbatim.

(c) Where necessary, the judge assigned the case may order consolidation of the pleadings into one finished comprehensible set.

6.05 MOTIONS GENERALLY

(a) Every motion shall identify in its title or introductory paragraph the particular relief sought together with the section of the *Code of Civil Procedure* pursuant to which the motion is brought.

(b) Pleading motions shall not be combined with fact motions except as permitted by the *Code of Civil Procedure*. Improperly combined motions may be stricken by the court without hearing.

(c) No motion may be heard unless previously scheduled for hearing on the Court's calendar. This rule does not apply to genuine emergency motions.

(d) The notice of hearing shall designate the judge to whom the motion will be presented, state the title and case number of the action, and set forth the date and time the motion will be presented and the courtroom in which it will be presented. A copy of the motion, any papers to be presented with the motion, and proof of service shall be served with the notice.

(e) The following times of notice shall be observed:

(i) Notice by <u>personal service</u> shall be made by 4:00 p.m. at least two court days before the scheduled hearing.

(ii) Notice by <u>mail</u> shall be deposited in a U.S. Post Office at least five court days before the scheduled hearing.

(iii) Notice by <u>fax</u> shall be completed by 4:00 p.m. at least three court days before the scheduled hearing.

(f) Service by fax will be effective only if at the presentation of the

motion the movant produces an affidavit setting forth the date and time of service, the telephone number to which the notice was transmitted, a statement that the receipt was confirmed, and an assertion that the *Supreme Court Rule* pertaining to fax service was followed. Fax notice and transmissions will not be considered valid or permitted where the opposing party/counsel does not have a fax machine.

(g) The burden of calling for hearing/setting any motion previously filed is on the party making the motion.

(h) Any motion not called for hearing/setting within 60 days from the date it was filed may be stricken without notice. Any motion not presented or supported by the moving party when called for hearing upon notice may be denied.

6.06 PARTICULAR MOTIONS

(a) All case or claim dispositive motions, other than those arising during trial, will be filed and noticed for setting no later than 120 days before the designated trial date except by leave of court upon good cause shown.

(b) All motions for leave to file counterclaims, actions over, contribution actions and third party complaints must be filed no later than 60 days before the designated trial date. No such filing will be construed to compel the court to continue the trial date or impair the Court's authority to sever such actions.

6.07 CONTESTED MOTIONS

(a) Any motion which is opposed may be heard at the end of the Court's call or at such other time designated by the Court.

(b) Any writing in support of or in opposition to a motion will be filed and served upon the opposing party.

(c) No writing in support of or in opposition to a motion will exceed ten (10) pages in length except by prior leave of court.

6.08 MOTIONS FOR SUBSTITUTION OF JUDGE

(a) Motions for substitution of a judge as a matter of right in civil cases will be filed with and heard by the judge to whom the case is assigned.

(b) Motions for substitution of a judge as a matter of right must be filed not later than 60 days before the designated trial date except where the judge to whom the case was originally assigned is succeeded by another judge within 60 days of trial.

(c) Motions for substitution of a judge for cause in civil cases will be filed with the judge to whom the case is assigned but transferred to the Presiding Judge of the Division or to the Chief Judge for assignment to another judge for the sole purpose of hearing the motion to substitute for cause.

6.09 MOTIONS FOR CONSOLIDATION OF CASES

(a) Motions for consolidation of cases will be brought on notice to all parties of record in all cases involved in the proposed consolidation.

(b) If the cases proposed for consolidation are within the same Division of the Court, the motion will be presented to the judge to whom the oldest numbered case is assigned.

(c) If cases proposed for consolidation are in different Divisions of the Court, the motion will be presented to the assigned judge in the Division being requested to receive the consolidated cases.

(d) Unless good cause is shown, cases will be consolidated into the oldest case.

6.10 EMERGENCY MOTIONS AND EMERGENCY RELIEF

(a) If genuine emergency relief is required, application will be made to the assigned judge. If the assigned judge is unavailable, application will be made to any other judge assigned to the Division in which the case is filed. If no judge in the Division is available, then application will be made to the Chief Judge or to a judge designated by the Chief Judge.

(b) Every complaint or petition brought during court hours requesting an ex parte order for the appointment of a receiver, temporary restraint, preliminary injunction, or any other emergency relief will be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk before application to the Court for the order.

(c) Notice after Hearing. If an ex parte or emergency motion is

heard without prior notice, a copy of the order granting or denying the motion will be entered. The party presenting the motion will serve a copy of the order personally or by U.S. Mail upon all persons having an interest who have not yet been served with a summons and upon all parties of record not found by the Court to be in default. The party presenting the motion will file with the Clerk of the Court, within two days of hearing, proof of service of a copy of the order entered.

(d) Counsel will use every reasonable effort to notify opposing counsel or parties unless otherwise provided by law.

ARTICLE 7: DISCOVERY

7.00 GENERAL

(a) The sequence of discovery will comply with Supreme Court Rule. The obligation to comply with and complete discovery will not depend on the opponent's compliance unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

(b) All discovery will be completed no later than 60 days before the trial date unless otherwise authorized by the Court or agreed by counsel.

7.01 DISCOVERY DOCUMENTS

(a) Depositions, interrogatories, document requests, responses thereto, and other discovery documents will not be filed with the Clerk of the Court except as permitted by (b) or (c) below or pursuant to Supreme Court Rule. Requests to admit and responses thereto may be filed.

(b) Discovery documents may be filed as necessary in support of motions or as otherwise ordered by the Court.

(c) Proof of Service of discovery and responses thereto may be filed with the Clerk of the Court and upon filing will be prima facie evidence that such documents were served or answered.

7.02 MOTIONS RELATING TO DISCOVERY

(a) Motions to Compel compliance with discovery rules or orders will be scheduled to assure hearing prior to any date(s) that may be affected by said motion.

(b) Motions requesting relief from discovery rules or orders will be scheduled to assure hearing prior to any date(s) that may be affected by said request.

(c) Failure to bring timely motions may preclude relief.

7.03 PHYSICIAN AND EXPERT FEES

In the instance of a conflict concerning reasonable compensation of a physician required to attend a deposition pursuant to the *Supreme Court Rules* or concerning the reasonable fee of an expert witness subpoenaed to appear at trial pursuant to the *Code of Civil Procedure*, a petition seeking a ruling on the reasonableness and a response thereto will set forth under oath to the extent known the following:

d) the ordinary charges of the physician or expert for services rendered in his or her daily profession;

e) the usual and customary charges of physicians or experts (with similar credentials) in the area;

f) the level of skill possessed by the physician or expert as well as the time and effort expended and to be expended in the matter at issue;

g) the hardship, if any, of advancing the compensation or fee or of testifying prior to receiving the compensation or fee; and

e) other relevant facts.

ARTICLE 8: RESERVED

ARTICLE 9: TRIAL PRACTICE

9.00 [RESERVED]

9.01 JURY SELECTION

(a) Statement of the Nature of the Case: In all civil jury cases, the plaintiff's attorney will prepare and submit to the Court and to each opposing party a Statement of the Nature of the Case for

use at voir dire. The statement will include the time, date and location of the alleged transaction or occurrence giving rise to the lawsuit; a brief description of the alleged transaction or occurrence; the name and city of residence (or business) of each of the parties involved and of their attorneys; and a list of the names and residence communities of witnesses whom the parties expect to call. Opposing counsel may suggest amendments to the statement.

(b) Voir dire examination of prospective jurors will be pursuant to *Supreme Court Rule.*

9.02 STIPULATIONS

Proposed stipulations for use at trial will be in writing, signed by the parties or their attorneys and filed in the cause unless the Court directs otherwise.

AMENDED

ARTICLE 11: MANDATORY ARBITRATION

The mandatory arbitration program in the Circuit Court for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Kane County, Illinois is governed by Supreme Court Rules 86-95 for the conduct for Mandatory Arbitration Proceedings. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 86(c), the circuit judges of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit have previously adopted the Supreme Court rules as amended as a local rule effective January 3rd, 1995. Arbitration proceedings shall be governed by the Supreme Court rules and Article 11.

11.01 CIVIL ACTIONS SUBJECT TO MANDATORY ARBITRATION (S. CT. RULE 86)

(a) Mandatory arbitration proceedings are undertaken and conducted in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Kane County, pursuant to approval of the Illinois Supreme Court.

(b) Mandatory arbitration proceedings are a part of the underlying civil action. All rules of practice contained in the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure and Illinois Supreme Court Rules shall apply to these proceedings.

(c) All civil actions exclusively for money in an amount exceeding $5,000 but not exceeding $30,000 exclusive of interest and costs and all small claims actions where a jury has been demanded shall be subject to mandatory arbitration.

(d) Cases not originally assigned to the Arbitration Calendar may be ordered to arbitration on the motion of either party, by agreement of the parties or by order of court, when it appears to the Court that no claim in the action has a value in excess of $30,000, irrespective of defenses.

(e) When a civil action not originally assigned to the Arbitration Calendar is subsequently assigned to the Arbitration Calendar, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 86(d), the Arbitration Administrator shall promptly assign as arbitration hearing date. The arbitration hearing date shall be not less than 60 days nor more than 180 days from the date of the assignment to the Arbitration Calendar.

(f) Consistent with Supreme Court Rules, these rules may be amended from time to time by order of a majority of the Circuit Judges for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

11.02 APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATION AND COMPENSATION OF ARBITRATORS (S. CT. RULE 87)

I. Applicants shall be eligible for appointment as arbitration panelists by filing an application form with the Arbitration Administrator certifying that the applicant:

(1) has attended an approved mandatory arbitration seminar, and

(2) has read and is informed of the rules of the Supreme Court and the Act relating to mandatory arbitration, and

(3) is presently licensed to practice law in Illinois, and

(4) has engaged in the practice of law in Illinois for a minimum of three years; or is a retired judge, and