

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2014-012**

**RE: CUSTODY EVALUATIONS, PARENTING COORDINATORS,  
AND SOCIAL INVESTIGATIONS IN FAMILY LAW CASES**

**WHEREAS**, Section 61.20, Florida Statutes, sets forth the definitions and qualifications for persons conducting social investigations and making recommendations regarding parenting plans; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 61.125(4), Florida Statutes, sets forth the definitions and qualifications for parenting coordinators; and

**WHEREAS**, Sections 61.401 and 61.402 establishes criteria for the appointment of a guardian ad litem in dissolution of marriage cases, or other matters involving the creation, approval, or modification of a parenting plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Rule 2.214(b)(3), Florida Rules of Court, states that it is the responsibility of the Chief Judge to ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within the circuit;

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

Any person appointed by the court to conduct a social investigation, make recommendations regarding a parenting plan, serve as a parenting coordinator, or serve as a guardian ad litem in a family case must meet, at a minimum, the qualifications outlined in the Florida Statutes and restated below:

- I. **SOCIAL INVESTIGATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A PARENTING PLAN:** A social investigation and study shall be conducted by a child-placing agency licensed pursuant to s.409.175, Florida Statutes; a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 490, Florida Statutes; or a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 491, Florida Statutes.
- II. **PARENTING COORDINATOR:** To serve as a parenting coordinator, a person must be either licensed as a mental health professional under chapter 490 or chapter 491; licensed as a physician under chapter 458, with certification by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a family law mediator, with at least a master's degree in a mental health field; or be a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.

Additionally, parenting coordinators must have completed three years of post-licensure or post-certification practice; a family mediation training program certified by the Florida Supreme Court; and a minimum of 24 hours of parenting coordination

training as set forth in the s.61.125(4)2.c., Florida Statutes, including a minimum of 4 hours of training in domestic violence and child abuse which is related to parenting coordination.

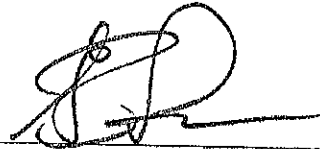
A parenting coordinator must also be in good standing, or in clear and active status, with his or her respective licensing authority, certification board, or both, as applicable.

III. GUARDIAN AD LITEM: A person appointed to serve as a guardian ad litem in a dissolution of marriage or for the creation, approval, or modification of a parenting plan must be currently certified by the Guardian Ad Litem Program pursuant to s.39.821; certified by a not-for-profit legal aid organization as defined in s.68.096; or an attorney who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.

Parties may, by stipulation, submit to an evaluation by any third party, whether or not such person meets the statutory qualifications restated in this order. The results of such evaluation and recommendations may, at the discretion of the presiding judge, be relied upon by the court for informational purposes when determining timesharing and other matters related to minor children who are subjects of family law cases.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at Perry, Taylor County, Florida, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

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GREG PARKER, CHIEF JUDGE.