



Livingston County Friend of the Court Family Division 44th Judicial Circuit

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Chief Judge

Hon. Michael P. Hatty

Friend of the Court

Melissa A. Scharrer

Deputy Friend of the Court

Lori A. Marran

MEMORANDUM

TO: Livingston County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Melissa A. Scharrer, Friend of the Court

DATE: March 10, 2023

RE: Modification of Part-Time Conciliator Position to a Pooled Position

The Friend of the Court Conciliator position is a permanent part-time 20 hours per week position that assists parents in seeking to resolve disputes related to custody, parenting time, and child support at the beginning of the separation and divorce process. It is a position that requires specialized skills and experience in the areas of child development, psychology, mediation, and the law.

The current conciliator is an attorney and a retired domestic relations referee with extensive experience working with children and families. The second conciliator, who has been working on a temporary part-time basis, is a retired domestic relations custody investigator with a master's degree in social work and also many years of experience working with children and families.

I am requesting that the position of permanent part-time conciliator be modified to allow two (2) individuals to share the duties and responsibilities in a pooled manner. The authorized and budgeted hours of 20 hours per week would remain the same and no additional cost would be involved. This is simply a sharing of a position to best serve the needs of children and families by providing an expanded knowledge and experience base optimal to helping parents resolve disputes for the best interests of their children.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.