

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIVISION  
CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

**Policy Statement**

*The Domestic Violence Division is pleased to assist you in expediting your parenting issues. In order that all parties understand the role of the Expediter and the expediting process, and in an effort to maximize the likelihood of a positive and successful experience, we provide the following information:*

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Court Expediter provides a process by which s/he assists you and the other parent in exploring the possibility of reaching a mutually agreeable resolution of your parenting issues.

Your participation is voluntary. You may choose to end the session at any time.

Your expediter is impartial. S/he will not take sides or favor one parent over the other.

Your expediter does not make decisions about your case.

Your expediter will not give legal or other advice.

Your expediter is required to let you and the other parent know if s/he has prior knowledge of, or acquaintance with, either of you. If your expediter feels that s/he can still be neutral, and you and the other parent are still comfortable, the expediting process will continue.

You do not need a lawyer to participate in the expediting process. If you have a lawyer, s/he is welcome to participate, but is not required to do so.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

The expediting process is confidential.

The information discussed during the expediting process is considered to be private and will not be willingly disclosed to anyone outside of the session, including the judge.

The Expediter will not willingly testify in court as to the parents' conversation or behavior during the expediting process.

**EXCEPTIONS TO CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Expediter will report to the judge whether any agreements were reached, and what those agreements are.

If the Expediter learns anything that causes him/her to be concerned about imminent risk of substantial harm to any person inside or outside of the expediting session, s/he may disclose that to the appropriate persons, which may include the judge. Substantial harm includes, but is not limited to, (1) threats of or actual harm between the parents, (2) threats of or actual harm to persons not present in the expediting process, and (3) suspected child abuse or neglect.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT AN ATTORNEY.**

***By signing below, I acknowledge that I received and understand this Policy Statement, that I have had the opportunity to ask questions about its contents, and that I voluntarily agree to participate in this session.***

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Expediter \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

*The project was supported under Grant No. 2014-FJ-AX-K003 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women*