

# **Snohomish County Superior Court**

## **Local Court Rule Change**

**Permanent Rule Effective September 1, 2009**

# **PART V. SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS RULES (SCLSPR)**

## **SCLSPR 94.04 (g)**

### **g. Alternative Dispute Resolution Required In Family Law.**

1. *Alternative dispute resolution required in family law.* All contested issues in the following cases shall be submitted to settlement conference, mediation, or other ADR process with a neutral third party: petitions filed under RCW 26.09; 26.10; 26.26 and committed intimate relationship cases and petitions for modifications of final orders exclusive of Child Support/Maintenance Modification actions which are in mandatory arbitration.
2. *When alternative dispute resolution is not required.* ADR shall NOT be required in the following cases:
  - A. For good cause shown upon motion and approval by the court.
  - B. Where a domestic violence restraining order or protection order (excluding Ex-Parte orders) involving the parties has been entered by a court at any time within the previous twelve (12) months.
  - C. Where a domestic violence no contact order exists pursuant to RCW 10.99;
  - D. Where the court upon motion finds that domestic abuse has occurred between the parties and that such abuse would interfere with arm's-length mediation.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may by motion seek a court order requiring mandatory mediation in a case where it would not be required as set forth in (2)(B), (2)(C) or (2)(D) above if the moving party believes that the parties would be able to mediate their dispute fairly under the particular circumstances of the case.

[Amended effective September 1, 1999; Amended effective September 1, 2005; Amended effective September 1, 2009]