

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

GENERAL ORDER: 2017 D 3

SUBJECT: HEARING OFFICER PROCEDURE

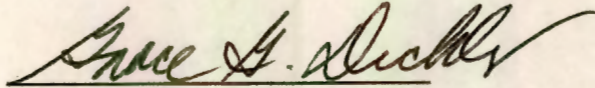
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 6, 2017, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- I. In order to facilitate the resolution of cases assigned to the Cook County Domestic Relations Division, Hearing Officers shall provide services for self-represented litigants on the following types of cases and issues:
 - Pre-decree and post-decree dissolution of marriage cases
 - Parentage Cases
 - Orders of Support
 - Allocation of Parental Responsibility
 - Contested Financial Issues including Maintenance Guidelines
 - Drafting Orders and Agreements
 - Drafting Dissolution of Marriage Judgments
 - Parenting Plans
 - Other

- II. Hearing Officer Procedure
 - The hearing officer will begin each session by screening each parent to make sure that they are not being coerced into any actions by the other parent.
 - The hearing officer shall provide litigants with additional resources or referrals where appropriate.
 - The hearing officer will assist each parent individually in filling out a parenting plan template for the litigant to submit to the judge.
 - If the parties have reached a complete agreement regarding all aspects of the parenting plan, they may meet with the hearing officer together for drafting of the parenting plan.
 - If the parties have not reached an agreement regarding all aspects of the parenting plan the hearing officer will meet with each parent separately.
 - If the parenting plans submitted by the parents are substantially the same, the hearing officer shall memorialize the plan in writing and provide it to the parents to submit to the court.

Dated this 1st day of February, 2017. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and published.

ENTERED:



HON. GRACE G. DICKLER
Presiding Judge
Domestic Relations Division

Presiding Judge
Grace G. Dickler

FEB 1 - 2017

Circuit Court-1521