

DISTRICT COURT, DOLORES COUNTY, COLORADO

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 99-21

ORDER re: Mandatory Attendance at Status Conference

WHEREAS, an increasing percentage of domestic relations cases are cases in which one or both parties are not represented by attorneys, and

WHEREAS, it is important in all cases that the litigants understand the law and procedure used by the court, and

WHEREAS, it is generally in the best interest of litigants, the courts, and the children involved in domestic relations cases that the case be handled efficiently and quickly,

NOW THEREFORE THE COURT ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. All domestic relations cases filed in this Court on or after October 1, 1999 will be set for a status conference with the Magistrate.
2. Attendance at the status conference is mandatory for both parties, whether attorneys represent the parties or not. The court may vary this required attendance only in the most unusual of circumstances and only for good cause.
3. Attorneys for the parties need not attend the status conference.
4. The status conference will include a discussion of the general law and procedure followed by the Courts of Colorado in domestic relations cases. In addition the case may be set for future hearings, set for temporary or permanent orders hearings, set for future settings, or referred to mediation as a result of the discussions at the status conference. Other orders as are appropriate in each case may also be entered after the status conference.
5. The status conference will be informal and a record of the conference will not be made other than to record the attendance of each party and any orders, which result from the conference.
6. At the time of the filing of a case, the petitioner will be given a copy of an order setting the case for the status conference. It is the responsibility of the Petitioner to insure that the setting order be served upon the other party. If the other party has not been served at the time of the filing, the setting order will be served with the rest of the necessary pleadings. If the other party has been served, or if the filing is a co-petitioner filing, the Petitioner will be required to mail or serve a copy of the setting order to the Respondent or Co-Petitioner, immediately.
7. Failure to serve a copy of the setting order or to attend the status conference will result in sanctions being imposed for contempt of Court, including possible jail or a fine.

Done in Chambers this ____ day of November, 1999.

By The Court:

Sharon L. Hansen
Chief Judge