

FILED
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER NO. 87-1

JAN 30 1987

Boyd C. Smith
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Based upon the collective determination of the judges of Champaign County as well as lawyers, psychologists, social workers and other professionals whose practice includes or touches upon a divorce that contested hearings on child custody and/or child visitation are productive of extreme acrimony between parents which increases the emotions attendant to the legal proceedings for the dissolution of their marriage and is disruptive of the attempts by such parents to establish post divorce lives for themselves and their children after an order for the dissolution of their marriage has been entered; and

Based upon the further determination that contested hearings on child custody and/or child visitation are antithetical to the best interests of the children of divorced or divorcing parents; and

Based upon the further determination that divorce mediation as provided in Ill.Rev.Stat. 1985, Ch. 40 para. 602.1(b) provides a useful procedure by which some child custody and/or child visitation disputes can be resolved and contested hearings of such disputes avoided.

IT IS ORDERED THAT

- A. The Champaign County Court Referred Divorce Mediation Program is established.
- B. Mediation done as part of the Champaign County Court Referred Divorce Mediation Program will be conducted in accordance with the attached Standards and Procedures for Champaign County Court Referred Divorce Mediation which are adopted and ordered implemented.
- C. Effective February 1, 1987 no divorce case, including post judgment proceedings, pending or thereafter filed, will be set for a contested hearing of custody and/or visitation issues and until such issues have been submitted for mediation assessment as provided in the Standards and Procedures for Champaign County Court Referred Divorce Mediation unless, for good cause shown, the mediation assessment is excused by the judge hearing the case.

DATED: January 30, 1987

ENTER: *Creed D. Tucker*
CREED D. TUCKER
Presiding Judge