



**Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution**  
**Special Set Meeting**  
**Monday, March 29, 2021**  
**10-11 AM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81329631408?pwd=dVF1QVdwN2FmTXhFYXN5TElvK2pyZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 2963 1408

Passcode: 724768

## **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order: Judge M. Cindy Morris
- II. Introductions
- III. New Business
  - Action Items:
    - i. Appendix B: Training and Qualifications of Neutrals (*Doc #1*)
    - ii. Training Program Guidelines (*Doc #2*)
    - iii. Appendix A: Uniform Rules for Dispute Resolution Programs (*Doc #3*)
    - iv. Model Court Mediation Rules (*Doc #4*)
- IV. Old Business
- V. 2021 Commission Dates: May 5, August 4, and November 3
- VI. Adjournment

***Next Meeting Date: May 5, 2021***



# Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution

## Special Set Meeting Minutes

### Monday, March 29, 2021

*Due to the public health crisis, this meeting was held virtually using Zoom; all members and guests participated by video and/or phone.*

Chair Judge M. Cindy Morris called the meeting to order. In addition to Judge Morris, Commission members and Office staff present were:

Judge Charles E. Auslander, III; Judge Jane C. Barwick; N. Staten Bitting, Jr., Esq.; Judge Clarence Cuthpert, Jr.; Mary Donovan, Esq.; Melissa Heard, M.S.S.W.; Judge Renata D. Turner; Randall Weiland; and Peggy McCoy Wilson.

Tracy B. Johnson, Executive Director and Karlie A. Sahs, Program Manager

JC/AOC staff member present was Alison Lerner, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney

Guests present were: T.J. BeMent, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Administrative District; Kim Brock, Fulton County Superior Court; Jill Cheeks, The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire; Kimberly Ciccaglione, Gwinnett County Courts; Candace Duvernay, Registered Neutral & ADR Trainer; Timothy Hedeem, Former GCDR Member, Kennesaw State University; Tim Hendrick, Southern Judicial Circuit ADR Program; Stacey Hornsby, Office of the Georgia Attorney General; Linda Jezerinac, 7<sup>th</sup> District ADR Program; Charity Messer, 7<sup>th</sup> District ADR Program; Patricia Murphy, The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire; Jody Overcash, 7<sup>th</sup> District ADR Program; Liesl Owen, 6<sup>th</sup> District ADR Program; Carlene Redmond, Cobb County Juvenile Court; Lee Robbins, The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire; Kathleen Sterne, Clayton County ADR Program; Patricia Siuta, Henning Mediation and Arbitration Services; Angela Taylor, Fulton County ADR Program; Joshua Weeks, Conasauga Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court; and Rebecca Zimmerman, Registered Neutral & ADR Trainer.

#### **I. Meeting called to order**

Judge Morris called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **II. Introductions**

Members and guests introduced themselves.

#### **III. New Business**

##### **a. Action Items**

1. **Appendix B: Training and Qualifications of Neutrals** – Ms. Melissa Heard, Chair of the Committee on Training and Credentials, provided a synopsis of updates made to Appendix B of the Supreme Court ADR Rules, as presented by the Committee.

Ms. Peggy Wilson made a motion to adopt all changes as written. Mr. Randy Weiland seconded the motion. All remaining members voted in favor, with Ms. Sandy Bair and Ms. Edith Primm voting by proxy.

2. **Training Program Guidelines:** Ms. Heard provided a synopsis of updates made to the Training Program Guidelines, formerly known as the Training Approval Guidelines, as presented by the Committee on Training and Credentials. Clarification was provided as to the number of hours expected for role play in a Domestic Relations Mediation training.

Mr. Weiland made a motion to adopt all changes as written. Judge Cuthpert seconded the motion. All remaining members voted in favor, with Ms. Bair and Ms. Primm voting by proxy.

3. **Appendix A: Uniform Rules for Dispute Resolution Programs** – Ms. Tracy Johnson presented the edited version of Appendix A of the Supreme Court Rules and provided an outline of changes. There was discussion as to the issue of capacity and exceptions to confidentiality. Judge Charles Auslander suggested an edit be made and the specific language to read, “as provided by the Supreme Court of Georgia in Wilson v. Wilson [case citation].”

Judge Auslander made motion to update the language in Appendix A, which references capacity and exceptions to confidentiality, as outlined above. Judge Cuthpert seconded his motion. All remaining members voted in favor, with Ms. Bair and Ms. Primm voting by proxy.

Ms. Wilson then made motion to adopt all changes to Appendix A of the Supreme Court ADR Rules, including the friendly amendment on capacity and confidentiality. Judge Auslander seconded her motion. All remaining members voted in favor, with Ms. Bair and Ms. Primm voting by proxy.

4. **Model Court Mediation Rules** – Ms. Johnson presented the edited version of the Model Court Mediation Rules. As the Model Court Mediation Rules should work in tandem with Appendix A of the Supreme Court ADR Rules, suggestion was made to update its language with regards to the matter of capacity and confidentiality.

Judge Auslander made motion to update the language in the Model Court Mediation Rules, which references capacity and confidentiality, as it is outlined in the adopted version Appendix A. Judge Cuthpert seconded his motion. All remaining members voted in favor, with Ms. Bair, Judge Barwick, and Ms. Primm voting by proxy.

Judge Renata Turner then made motion to adopt all changes to the Model Court Mediation Rules, including the friendly amendment on capacity and confidentiality. Ms. Wilson seconded her motion. All remaining members voted in favor, with Ms. Bair, Judge Barwick, and Ms. Primm voting by proxy.

#### IV. Old Business

There was no old business to report.

**V. 2021 Commission Dates: May 5, August 3, and November 4**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, at 2 p.m.; the meeting will be held virtually.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at approximately 11:15 a.m.

[Minutes prepared by Karlie A. Sahs and Tracy B. Johnson]

[Minutes approved via email on April 16, 2021]