

FILINGS IN MEDIATION SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Go to the survey web site: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mediationfilings>, or the DRS mediation website:
<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/drs/mediation/home.html>.
- 2) See page 5 below for Acronyms and Definitions.
- 3) **Enter each case completed between October 1 and November 31 using the instructions below. Enter each case separately. Enter as promptly as possible after completion.**

This is the PASSWORD PAGE.

Filings in Mediation


Welcome to the mediation filings survey!

Please enter each case completed in October and November separately.

This survey requires a password. If you do not know the password, please consult the survey instructions or contact DRS.

Enter Password

This is SURVEY PAGE 1. This page gathers the number of **filings** from each case **completed** in October and November.


Filings in Mediation

1. Filings in Mediation

This page measures the number and type of filings per referred case and their outcomes. With this information we will be able to determine the average number of filings per mediation and the agreement rate for filings by type.

*** 1. How many of each type of filing was:**

	referred	mediated	agreed
custody	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
visitation	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
child support	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
spousal support	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

- Enter each case completed in October and November separately.
- All fields are required.
- Each box is a drop down with numbers. Choose the number that corresponds to the number of filings in each category.
- Fill out each box, even if the answer is 0. For example, if filings were for custody and visitation, enter 0 for all the support fields. (Survey Monkey doesn't allow defaults for this question format.)
- Enter all the filings in one case.
 - For example:
 - If a case has custody and visitation for 3 children, and child support for 1 adult, that would be 7 filings total – 3 custody, 3 visitation, and 1 child support.
 - If both mom and dad have filed custody, visitation, and support for 3 children there would be 6 custody, 6 visitation, and 2 support filings.
 - If filings are referred but not mediated, enter the number of filings referred, and enter zeros in the mediated and agreed columns.

This is SURVEY PAGE 2. It gathers information on party representation and GAL appointments.



Filings in Mediation

2. Party Representation

Choose the number of parties who are **UNREPRESENTED** (do not have an attorney). These are parties who have **NOT** retained an attorney, have only attended a consultation, or **do not** have an attorney of record with the court.

* 2. How many parties were **UNREPRESENTED** (do not have an attorney)?

* 3. Did the *children* have a Guardian Ad Litem?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ N/A

Thank you for your support. The information you provided will assist in efforts to demonstrate mediation's value.

Please click "Done" to complete the survey.

Prev

Done

- **All questions are required.**
- Question #2 is a drop down box. Choose the number of parties in mediation who **do not** have legal representation.
- For question #3, answer for the **CHILDREN**. Do not answer for any adults who might have a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL).
 - "Yes" if there is a court-appointed GAL for any of the children
 - "No" if there is none
 - "Unknown" if it is not known whether there is a court-appointed GAL
 - "N/A" if it is the type of case where a GAL wouldn't be appointed (e.g., Spousal Support)
- **Any changes to answers must take place before you hit "Done".**
- After hitting "Done" you will be returned to the password page.

To record another case, begin again with instruction #4 on page 1 above. Repeat as many times as necessary to **enter all completed JDR case referrals.**

ACRONYMS

C – custody V – visitation CS – child support	SS – spousal support JDR – Juvenile and Domestic Relations GAL – Guardian ad Litem	N/A – Not applicable
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DEFINITIONS

These definitions are important for this survey. Please consult them as needed.

Case: All filings referred to one mediation for one family.

Filing: One JDR issue for one child or adult (C, V, CS, SS) filed with the court. This includes initial petitions, motions to amend, and show causes. **If a case has custody and visitation for 3 children, and child support for 1 adult, that would be 7 filings total – 3 custody, 3 visitation, and 1 child support. If both mom and dad have filed custody, visitation, and support for 3 children there would be 6 custody, 6 visitation, and 2 support filings.**

Completed: The DC-604 (Order of Referral) is completed and signed between October 1 and November 30, 2015.

Referred: JDR filing sent to a mediator via a court-based program for a dispute resolution orientation session.

Mediated: JDR filing received an orientation session and at least began the first stage of the mediation process.

Agreed: JDR filing resolved through mediation and resulted in a written agreement or agreement to withdraw the filing.

Guardian ad Litem: Attorney appointed by a judge to provide independent recommendations to the court about the child's best interests.