



VIA EMAIL

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Administrative Director of the Courts
Comments on Report of the Judiciary Special Committee on the Non-Dissolution Docket
Hughes Justice Complex,
P.O. Box 037 Trenton, NJ 08625-0037
Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.gov

RE: Proposed changes to FD Docket

Dear Judge Grant,

Please accept this letter in support of the Report and Recommendations of the Judiciary Special Committee on the Non-Dissolution (FD) Docket. The New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence appreciates the recognition by the committee of the need to make the non-dissolution court process more accessible to survivors, and particularly to survivors for whom English is not their first language.

Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the importance of inquiring about the history of domestic violence in these matters, whether or not a restraining order has been issued. In matters involving child custody and support a survivor may have to make the difficult choice of not pursuing a final restraining order so that their abuser can keep their job and maintain the family health insurance. Mediation in these matters would only further harm the victim and may result in a coerced agreement. We ask that in lieu of scheduling these matters for mediation the court fast track these matters for hearings as the situation is often volatile and cooperation between the parties is not viable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Denise Higgins, Esq.

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