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From: Anna-Maria Pittella <pittellalaw@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:04 PM
To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: Rule change as to collection of Economic Mediator Fee

I have learned of the proposed change that would **mandate that Economic Mediators who need to make application for fees** because the litigants do not make payment as set forth in the Court's referral Order would need to **start an action in Law Division (Special Civil Part) to collect the outstanding fee.**

Since matters are referred to us to help clear the Court calendar, it seems absurd to then require us to chase fees by going to Court. This is really unjust since we are already committing to offer two free hours of our time. I often offer more free time than even the two hours as I am sure other of my colleagues do the same. Collection of fees in this manner will necessitate more free time.

I strongly oppose this change and ask the present method of collection continue. Is there not wisdom in not having mediators rethink their participation in this program if more obstacles are created?

Respectfully,

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