

# IPS Observation Verification of Parenting Act Apprentice Mediator

---

*This observation verification is to be completed by the supervisory mediator the day of the Initial Individual Private Session (IPS) and reviewed with the apprentice mediator. Supervisory mediator shall provide the apprentice mediator a copy of this assessment within 10 days of the session. (Apprentice needs the completed observation verification to upload with his/her application to become an approved Parenting Act mediator.)*

## I. Apprentice and Case Information

Case Identifier: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (City) of Session: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Session: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Time spent in IPS: \_\_\_\_\_

Apprentice: \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Preparation

It is recommended to schedule a minimum of 10 minutes prior to the IPS allow time for the apprentice to ask questions. Provide a copy of this observation form that lists the topics that will be debriefed at the conclusion of the session, and encourage the apprentice to take notes.

## III. Debrief

- Ask apprentice for their observations and answer questions they may have about the IPS.
- Review Nebraska Statute: §43-2939(1)
  - Assess the presence of child abuse or neglect, unresolved parental conflict, domestic intimate partner abuse, other forms of intimidation or coercion, or a party's inability to negotiate freely and make informed decisions.
  - Duty to determine whether to proceed in joint session, individual sessions, or caucus meetings.
  - Ongoing duty to assess appropriateness and safety of the process on the parties.
- Discuss the differences between high conflict (i.e., unresolved parental conflict) and domestic intimate partner abuse.
- Highlight the importance of making a determination on the process (joint, specialized ADR, termination) and the required signed documentation of that determination.
- Discuss all purposes of an IPS – more than assessment and process determination.
  - Introduction, including qualifications, confidentiality and exceptions
  - Develop rapport
  - Educate about the process, including the role of the mediator
  - Listen and learn about their background and history, the relationship, current parenting schedule, and the children
  - Answer their questions

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Supervisory Mediator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Apprentice Mediator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date