

Clermont County Domestic Relations Court
Early Neutral Evaluation
Information Sheet

The Court has ordered both parents to participate in Early Neutral Evaluation (“ENE”), a dispute resolution process designed to promote satisfaction through improved efficiency, reduced cost, and earlier resolution of parenting disputes. ENE provides a confidential forum for parents to present their issues regarding parenting arrangements and to obtain an unbiased evaluation of the pending litigation from Court staff.

What exactly is ENE?

ENE is a short-term confidential process that requires both parents and their attorneys to attend a session at the Court led by a magistrate and a trained mediator. After brief case presentations and information gathering, these experienced professionals share their evaluation of the case. The parents can then explore possible solutions to the current dispute. The process is not mediation, but is less formal than litigation. Generally, sessions three hours.

What opportunities are presented by the use of ENE?

Parents are presented with the opportunity to resolve parenting disputes and potentially reduce costs and time spent in court. Parents and their children may also avoid the stress associated with parenting investigations and litigation, which are time consuming and often have a long-lasting negative impact on the wellbeing of the children.

Who are the Evaluators?

The team consists of a magistrate and a trained mediator. Both Evaluators have extensive experience managing parenting disputes and are trained family law mediators. One team member will be male and one will be female.

How does the process begin?

The assigned Judge or Magistrate will create an Entry Ordering ENE. The Entry will state the date, time and location of the ENE session.

What happens next?

Each parent will submit his/her Parenting Perspective Brief to the Court, through counsel, **a minimum of 21 days before the scheduled ENE session.** The Court’s copy must be sent to Attn: Brittani Neal, Clermont County Domestic Relations Court, 2340 Clermont Center Drive Suite 200, Batavia, Ohio 45103 **or** email to blneal@clermontcountyohio.gov –put “Parenting Perspective Brief” in subject line **or** fax to 513-732-7333. The Court will send a copy of each Parenting Perspective Brief to opposing counsel when both briefs have been received. You may be subject to a contempt finding if you submit your brief late or if you fail to submit your brief.

The Parenting Perspective Brief will not be filed with the Clerk of Courts or placed in the Court’s family file. The Court will shred the Briefs upon completion of the ENE process. The purpose of the Parenting Perspective Brief is to give the Evaluators an overview of the current situation. In

your Brief, please provide information about living environments, parenting styles, work schedules, extracurricular activities, past decision making, goals, etc.

The parents and their attorneys will report to the Court on the scheduled date. No other person may participate in the session without obtaining written approval from the Court in advance. Sessions cannot be rescheduled unless a motion is filed with the Court and good cause is shown.

What should I bring with me to the session?

Please bring a photograph of your children to the session. It is helpful to the Evaluators and to you, the parents, to stay focused on the purpose of the ENE session—to make parenting arrangements that are best for your children.

What happens during the session?

The Evaluators will oversee the discussion to allow each parent and attorney the opportunity to be heard in an atmosphere of cooperation and respect. First, the Evaluators will fully explain the ENE process and the ground rules. This will take approximately 15 minutes. Then each parent will be given 15 minutes to explain what disputes are at issue and to explain his/her perspective on the best parenting arrangements for their child/ren. The attorneys will be available to remind their clients of important information and to help them maintain focus.

The attorneys will have five minutes each to supplement the parents' presentations. The Evaluators will then ask questions of each parent in an effort to obtain sufficient relevant information. This will take approximately 20 minutes. The Evaluators will then meet privately for up to 30 minutes to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each parent's position. Subsequently, they will provide an evaluation of the probable outcome of the case if the matter was presented during trial. The Evaluators will suggest settlement possibilities and may address areas needing further inquiry. Each parent may meet privately with his/her attorney to discuss options. The Evaluators may schedule another ENE session if additional information or collateral data is needed or if they decide to interview the child/ren or other parties.

What happens after the session?

If you reach a full or partial settlement at the conclusion of the session, you may recite the agreement on the record, or you may submit your agreement to the Court, in writing, on a future date. The Court or the Evaluators may refer the parents to mediation if certain details need to be resolved to reach a full settlement.

If you do not reach a settlement, the Evaluators will notify the assigned Judge or Magistrate and recommend the next step. The Evaluators are not permitted to testify during litigation.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

Case No. _____

Plaintiff

and

PARENTING PERSPECTIVE BRIEF

*Limit responses to 10 pages and questions asked. **DO NOT** attach documentation

Defendant

Submitting Party: Mother Father

Date of ENE Session :

Date of Filing:

Pre-Decree Post Decree (decree date: _____)

Date of Marriage: _____ Date of Separation: _____

Attended Parenting Education Class: Yes No (date: _____)

Father

Name _____

Age _____

Mother

Name _____

Age _____

CHILDREN OF THIS MARRIAGE

Name	Age	Gender	Grade	Name of School
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F		

Additional children in the home:
Please list their name(s) and relationship(s)

Name	Age	Gender	Relationship
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	

Additional adults living in the home or regularly spending time there:
Please list their name(s) and relationship(s)

Name	Gender	Relationship
	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	

Describe your current living environment:

(Housing type: apartment, house, etc.; Size of the home and number of bedrooms; Neighborhood; Distance to school/other parent)

Describe your current work situation:

(Employer; Location; Position; Schedule)

What is the other parent's work schedule?

Describe any changes expected in your or the other parent's housing/work situation:

Concerns regarding your child(ren)'s education:

(Grades, attendance, homework, peers, etc.)

Extracurricular activities for the children:

Describe your support system:

(Family, community, friends, etc.)

What are your strengths as a parent?

Describe your parenting role:

(Doctor visits, church attendance, discipline, etc.)

Describe your relationship with the child(ren):

What are the strengths of the other parent?

Describe the other parent's parenting role:

Describe the other parent's relationship with the child(ren):

What are your concerns about the other parent?

(Safety issues, discipline issues, drugs, alcohol, mental health, criminal record, etc.)

How have major parenting decisions been made in the past?

(Regarding education, religion, medical attention, etc.)

How are those major parenting decisions made now?

How do you want those major parenting decisions made in the future?

Describe your current parenting time schedule:

What is your proposed parenting time schedule?

If pre-decree, do you and the other parent agree to a parenting arrangement? If so, what is it? If not, what are you seeking?

If post-decree, what change in circumstances has occurred?

What are your goals for parenting and the ENE session?

Who might you call as a witness should this case proceed to trial, what is your relationship to them, and to what will they testify? (if known at this time)

Signature of Party/Attorney

Typed Name

Date

This form must be returned a minimum of 21 days prior to the scheduled ENE session to Brittani Neal at one of the following addresses:

1. Brittani Neal, 2340 Clermont Center Drive Suite 200, Batavia, Ohio 45103
2. Brittani Neal by email at blNeal@clermontcountyohio.gov; "Parenting Perspective Brief" in subject line
3. Brittani Neal by fax to 513-732-7333