



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



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For Immediate Release

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22nd Judicial Circuit Adopts Local Rule 11.14 for Parenting Coordinators

WOODSTOCK, IL — The 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is pleased to announce that the Illinois Supreme Court has approved the Circuit's adoption of Local Rule 11.14, Parenting Coordinators. This new rule establishes standards, procedures, and qualifications for parenting coordinators to assist families in high-conflict parenting disputes.

Local Rule 11.14 is grounded in Illinois Supreme Court Rule 909 and creates a structured framework for the use of parenting coordinators, who serve as neutral third-party professionals, either licensed mental health experts or experienced family law attorneys. Their role is to help parents reduce conflict, implement parenting plans, and resolve disputes in a child-focused manner.

The rule outlines:

- **Qualifications and Training:** Parenting coordinators must meet strict education, licensing, and training requirements, including specialized training in screening for domestic violence and safety concerns.
- **Appointment Procedures:** Parenting coordination may be ordered by the court upon motion, recommendation, or by the court's discretion when it serves the best interests of the child(ren).
- **Standards of Practice:** Coordinators must follow nationally recognized guidelines, including those published by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC).
- **Application Process:** Professionals seeking to serve as parenting coordinators in McHenry County must submit a written application to the Presiding Judge of the Family Division, providing documentation of qualifications, experience, liability insurance, and compliance with ongoing continuing education requirements.

The mission of the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is to be the guardian of life, liberty and property to all seeking access to justice, by adhering to practices that ensure equality, fairness and confidence in the judiciary.

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“Family Coordinators are pivotal in helping parents acquire the tools necessary to provide a healthy and nurturing environment for their children. On behalf of the 22nd Circuit, I’d like to thank all the professionals participating in this vitally important role. Your time, energy and expertise really matter, and in so many instances, can be life-changing for our future generation,” stated Chief Judge Michael Feetterer

The adoption of Local Rule 11.14 represents a significant step forward in enhancing the court’s ability to address complex family dynamics, safeguard the well-being of children, and provide parents with structured, professional guidance outside of adversarial litigation.

For more information about Local Rule 11.14 and the application process to become a parenting coordinator, please contact the Office of the Trial Court Administrator at (815) 334-4385 or courtadmin@22ndcircuit.il.gov

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