

# BENCH CARD: CHILD WELFARE / JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCING



**Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-247.03** provides that in any juvenile case, the court may provide the parties with the opportunity to address issues involving the child's care and placement, services to the family, and other concerns through restorative justice practices, including conferencing, mediation, and facilitation.

The Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) shall be responsible for funding and management of such services provided by approved centers. The ODR has prepared this Bench Card as a reference guide when referring child welfare and juvenile justice facilitated conferencing.

## PROCEDURE

- » When the Court determines, upon its own motion, or upon motion of a party, that mediation or facilitation is warranted, it will include such language in its written order.
- » The order directs the parties to contact the ODR-approved mediation center to provide either a child welfare conference or a juvenile justice conference.

## Sample Court Order Language

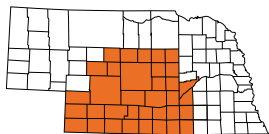
*The Court finds that the above referenced case shall be referred for a **Child Welfare (CWC)** or **Juvenile Justice (JJC)** Conference (circle one). The mediation center will conduct an assessment to determine the optimum mediation or facilitation to use to address the issues specified. At the conclusion of the conference, the mediation center will issue a Mediation Center Court Transmittal Report along with a copy of any summary/agreement to the Court.*

### Central Mediation Center

Phone: (308) 237-4692

Fax: (308) 237-5027

Email: [info@centralmediationcenter.com](mailto:info@centralmediationcenter.com)



*The issue(s) to be addressed at the conference are:*

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**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that a child welfare or juvenile justice conference is ordered and the parties shall contact and cooperate fully with

*(ODR-approved mediation center).*

**Following the issuance of the order, the bailiff or court staff sends/faxes/scans a copy of that order to the mediation center serving the county.**

- » When coding the order into JUSTICE, court staff uses either the "CWC" or "JJC" code.
- » At the conclusion of the conference, the mediation center transmits a "Mediation Center Court Transmittal Report" along with a copy of the conference summary/mediated agreement to the court. (See reverse for sample Transmittal Report.)
- » Court staff then enters into JUSTICE the specific type of conference conducted, as noted on the Transmittal Report.

### Concord Mediation Center

Phone: (402) 345-1131 or

Fax: (402) 884-7057

Email: [contact@concord-center.com](mailto:contact@concord-center.com)



## TERMINOLOGY

- » The term "Child Welfare Conference - CWC" is a generic term that allows the mediation center to conduct an assessment to determine the appropriate service to use to address permanency issues in a 3a case.
  - Services available include: family group conference, pre-hearing conference on initial removal (PPREHRGC)\*, pre-hearing permanency review, pre-hearing of termination of parental rights, mediation, facilitation.
- » The term "Juvenile Justice Conference - JJC" also is a generic term to allow the same kind of assessment process to determine whether youth would be better served by victim offender mediation/Victim Youth Conference or some other type of conference in subtype 1, 2, 3b and 4 cases.
  - These include: victim offender mediation/victim youth conference, expedited family group conference, mediation.

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** PPREHRGC - Pre-Hearing Conference Held is one type of a pre-existing child welfare conference held prior to First Appearance. PPREHRGCs are an initial removal hearing facilitated conference in 3a cases that many juvenile courts have been conducting for several years. Please continue to code in JUSTICE accordingly.

### The Mediation Center

Phone: (402) 441-5740 or

Fax: (402) 441-5749

Email: [info@themediationcenter.org](mailto:info@themediationcenter.org)



# NEBRASKA COURT SYSTEM

## Mediation Center Court Transmittal Report\* Effective Jan. 1, 2015, Revised April 2020

*For Court-Ordered Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Mediation / Conferencing Services*

Juvenile Case #: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date court ordered to CWC or JJC: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Date referral received by mediation center: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmittal Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Child welfare / juvenile conferencing **was held** and case has been closed by the mediation center. Attached is a copy of the conference summary or mediated agreement.

Child welfare / juvenile conferencing **was not held** and case has been closed by the mediation center. (Please write a brief narration):

Name of mediation center: \_\_\_\_\_

Person transmitting: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mediation center staff:** Check **one code only**, below, to indicate which type of conference was provided to the child(ren) and related parties.

### Child Welfare Conferencing: CWC

- CWCFCG (Family Group Conference)
- CWCPHPR (Prehearing Permanency Review)
- CWCPTPR (Prehearing Termination of Parental Rights)
- CWCCWM (Child Welfare Mediation)
- CWCCWF (Child Welfare Facilitation)

### Juvenile Justice Conferencing: JJC

- JJCVM (Victim Offender Mediation/Victim Youth Conference)
- JJCEFGC (Expedited Family Group Conference)
- JJCJM (Juvenile Justice Mediation)

**Nebraska court staff:** please enter the code checked into the ADDACTS screen. These are confidential documents to be kept in the social file.

\*Mediation Center Court Transmittal Report: The ODR-approved mediation center shall transmit this report to the county/juvenile court at the closing of the case. The staff of the county / juvenile court shall input the selected case type into data field. (Rev. April 2020.)



**Questions Contact: Kelly Riley, M.P.A.**

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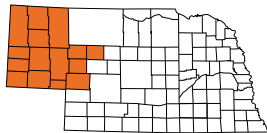
Email: Kelly.Riley@nebraska.gov

### Mediation West

Phone: (308) 635-2002 or

Fax: (308) 635-2420

Email: info@mediationwest.org

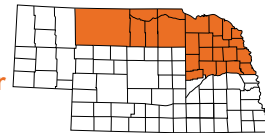


### Nebraska Mediation Center

Phone: (402) 753-9415 or

Fax: (402) 721-6790

Email: nmc@nebraskamediationcenter.com



### The Resolution Center

Phone: (402) 223-6061 or

Fax: (402) 223-6625

Email: info@theresolutioncenter.org

