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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1909

01/24/2012 Authored by Winkler

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Civil Law

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to families; establishing a roster and training requirements for parenting
1.3 consultants; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 518.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **[518.1753] PARENTING CONSULTANT TRAINING; ROSTER.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** (a) The purpose of a parenting consultant is to resolve
1.7 parenting disputes between parents who are involved in legal proceedings related to
1.8 parenting time.

1.9 (b) A "parenting consultant" is a neutral third party whose duties and responsibilities
1.10 are defined by a court order, unless the parties voluntarily select a neutral third party to
1.11 provide parenting consultant services. A parenting consultant shall only have the powers
1.12 enumerated in the court order appointing the consultant.

1.13 (c) A parenting consultant is subject to the jurisdiction of Rule 114 of the Minnesota
1.14 General Rules of Practice for the District Courts.

1.15 Subd. 2. **Roster of parenting consultants.** The state court administrator shall
1.16 establish, maintain, and make available to the public and judicial officers a roster of
1.17 individuals to serve as parenting consultants. The state court administrator shall not place
1.18 on the roster the name of an individual who has not completed the training required in
1.19 subdivision 3, or whose professional license has been revoked. To maintain one's listing
1.20 on the roster of parenting consultants, an individual must annually submit to the state court
1.21 administrator proof of completion of continuing education requirements.

1.22 Subd. 3. **Training and continuing education requirements.** (a) To qualify for
1.23 listing on the state court administrator's roster of parenting consultants, an individual

- 2.1 must complete a minimum of 20 hours of approved training that includes, but is not
2.2 limited to, the following:
- 2.3 (1) family dynamics in separation and divorce;
 - 2.4 (2) Minnesota laws and rules pertaining to parenting consultants;
 - 2.5 (3) the Alternate Dispute Resolution Code of Ethics set forth in the Appendix to
2.6 Rule 114;
 - 2.7 (4) the role of the parenting consultant;
 - 2.8 (5) drafting agreements and court documents; and
 - 2.9 (6) dynamics and issues in domestic violence.
- 2.10 (b) To maintain one's listing on the state court administrator's roster of parenting
2.11 consultants, an individual must annually attend three hours of continuing education about
2.12 alternative dispute resolution subjects.
- 2.13 Subd. 4. **Code of ethics; review board.** Parenting consultants are subject to the
2.14 jurisdiction of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Review Board and required to comply
2.15 with the Alternate Dispute Resolution Code of Ethics. Complaints against a parenting
2.16 consultant shall be investigated as required under the Appendix to Rule 114 of the
2.17 Minnesota General Rules of Practice for the District Courts.