

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Pugh and others

Subject: Family law cases required to provide parties with dispute resolution notice

Analyst: Mary Mullen

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Overview

This bill requires the court to provide information to participants in a family law case about alternative dispute resolution.

Section

1 **Hearings.** Adds a provision to the hearing requirements in custody and divorce matters to require the court to provide an information sheet to parties at the first hearing or initial appearance in a case for custody or divorce that informs the parties about options that are available for alternative dispute resolution. This bill requires the court to obtain the signatures of parties to confirm that they received the notice.

Effective date. This bill would apply to cases that are filed on or after August 1, 2016.