Rule *1940.3. Order for Orientation Session and Mediation. Selection of Mediator.

(a) Except as provided in (c) below, in an action for custody, partial custody or visitation , the parties shall attend a custody mediation orientation session prior to the scheduled Custody Conciliation Conference.

(b) An orientation session is an initial meeting between parties, and a mediator pursuant to Local Rule 1940.4 below. to educate the parties concerning the mediation process so that an informed choice can be made about continued participation in that process. The mediation is confidential at the point, if any, that mediation commences during, or after, the initial orientation session.

(c) An orientation session shall not be mandated if a party or a party's child is or has been the subject of abuse either during the pendency of the action or within 24 months preceding the filing of the action.