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Madison & Bond Counties

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PRESS RELEASE

Office of the Chief Judge
Madison County Courthouse
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For immediate release:

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The Third Judicial Circuit is pleased to announce that they are the recipients of a grant from the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice. The grant funds will be used to create and facilitate a pilot family law mediation program for divorce and family cases involving two self-represented litigants. The Courts have noticed a dramatic increase in the number of self-represented litigants each month.

Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator, Angela Wille, will manage the grant with the Supervising Judge of the Family Division, Associate Judge Maureen Schuette. The two applied for the grant in early October after Judge Schuette recognized the need for additional family mediators for litigants proceeding through the court system without an attorney.

“This is a great opportunity for families in Madison County to meet with a certified, neutral third-party mediator and attempt to reach a mutual agreement regarding issues pertaining to their children and/or their property,” said Chief Judge Mudge.

The Circuit was previously awarded a grant in 2018 to renovate the existing Law Library space used by self-represented litigants in the Edwardsville Courthouse to make it more user-friendly to both self-represented litigants and attorneys. The remaining grant funds were used to expand self-represented litigant services to Bond County.

The Court will begin assigning cases in December.