

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §48-9-208

## **§48-9-208. Parental dispute resolution.**

(a) If provisions for resolving parental disputes are not ordered by the court pursuant to a parenting agreement in §48-9-201 of this code, the court shall order a method of resolving disputes that serves the child's best interest in light of:

- (1) The parents' wishes and the stability of the child;
- (2) Circumstances, including, but not limited to, financial circumstances, that may affect the parents' ability to participate in a prescribed dispute resolution process; and
- (3) The existence of any factor set forth in §48-9-209 of this code.

(b) The court may order a non-judicial process of dispute resolution by designating with particularity the person or agency to conduct the process or the method for selecting a person or agency. The disposition of a dispute through a non-judicial method of dispute resolution that has been ordered by the court without prior parental agreement is subject to de novo judicial review. If the parents have agreed in a parenting plan or by agreement thereafter to a binding resolution of their dispute by non-judicial means, a decision by such means is binding upon the parents and must be enforced by the court, unless it is shown to be contrary to the best interests of the child, beyond the scope of the parents' agreement, or the result of fraud, misconduct, corruption, or other serious irregularity.

(c) This section is subject to the limitations imposed by §48-9-202 of this code.