

What is mediation?

Mediation is a process in which you work with a mediator who, without providing legal advice, assists you in reaching your own agreement for resolution of all or part of a custody or access dispute.

How does my case get to mediation?

At the scheduling hearing a Master may make a referral for your case to be *screened* for mediation.

What must I do if my case is referred to mediation?

Immediately after the Scheduling Hearing proceed to Family Division Services (Room 1500), show the front desk personnel your referral paper and you will be asked to fill out an intake form. After you fill it out your case will be called for a brief intake interview. Each party will be interviewed separately.

If your case is determined eligible for mediation, your previously set mediation date will stay on. If it is determined to be ineligible, you will be notified by letter that the mediation date has been removed.

What happens after mediation?

The parties and the mediator will go to a Master's hearing room and report the results of their mediation to the Court.

MEDIATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

The mediator and any persons present in the mediation must maintain confidentiality of all mediation. They may not disclose or be compelled to disclose such communications in any judicial, administrative or other proceedings.

The Court takes confidentiality very seriously. At the beginning of the mediation session all the

Participants, including the Mediator, will sign a confidentiality statement, which is kept by Family Division Services.

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO CONFIDENTIALITY?

Yes. The following disclosures are permitted:

- Written agreements reached during the mediation may be presented to the court.
- Disclosures required by law (i.e., allegations of child abuse or neglect) will be reported to the proper authorities.
- Threats of harm to oneself or others will be reported to the appropriate authorities to the extent needed to prevent serious harm or death to a potential victim.