

1 Your name:  
Street Address:  
2 City, State and Zip Code:  
Tel. No.:

6 In Pro Per

7 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
8 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

10 CASE NO.:

11 NOTICE OF MEDIATION WITH FAMILY  
12 CUSTODY SERVICES

12 \_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff/Petitioner,

13 v.

14 Mediation date:  
Mediation time:  
Location: 1100 Anacapa St., First Floor,  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

14 \_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant/Respondent,

15 \_\_\_\_\_,  
16 Other Parent.

Assigned to: \_\_\_\_\_

17 TO: \_\_\_\_\_:

18 This matter has been set for mediation with Family Custody Services before a court-  
19 appointed mediator on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. (time) at the Family  
20 Custody Services office located at the Santa Barbara County Superior Court, 1100 Anacapa  
21 Street, First Floor, Santa Barbara, California 93101.

22 The purpose of family custody mediation is to provide a forum for separated parents to  
23 meet and discuss custody and visitation issues in a secure environment, with a trained,  
24 professional mediator. The goal is to develop a parenting plan structured around the best  
25 interests of the children. Mediation is designed to reduce anger and polarization by encouraging  
26 a cooperative parenting relationship.

27 The process is private and confidential. A mediator may not testify unless both parents  
28

1 waive the confidentiality of the mediation, and a judge finds the testimony admissible.

2 The mediator's role is to help parents resolve contested issues. The mediator does not  
3 judge or give legal advice. Mediation is not psychotherapy. The mediator's role is strictly one of  
4 a facilitator of communication, a guide for defining issues, exploring the alternatives, and  
5 achieving a parenting plan through communication and negotiation. Parents are encouraged, but  
6 not required, to reach an agreement.

7 Children five years of age and older will be interviewed by the mediator. The interview  
8 with the children will not be used to elicit a preference between parents. Parents are **strongly**  
9 **discouraged** from asking children to express a preference, as this can be extremely divisive and  
10 emotionally harmful.

11 Any child five years of age and older shall be brought to mediation by the parent having  
12 the child with him/her on the date of the mediation. If any of the children are twelve years of age  
13 or younger, the parent having the child with him/her on the date of the mediation shall also  
14 arrange to bring to mediation a person to watch the child during the mediation process, and/or to  
15 remove the child after the interview with the mediator, so that both parents may jointly  
16 participate in mediation without the children present.

17 Unless good cause is shown, the Court may issue fines against attorneys or parties who:  
18 cancel mediation with less than three days' notice, fail to appear to be at a scheduled mediation,  
19 or fail to produce a child at mediation as required by these rules.

20 For further information about mediation, you should contact your attorney or contact  
21 Family Custody Services at (805) 568-3133.

22 If there is a history of domestic violence, the Family Custody Services office should be  
23 advised immediately.

24 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

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