

HOW TO PREPARE FOR MEDIATION

Prior to arranging the mediation, participants will speak with the Program Manager about the mediation process and to identify the topics for discussion during mediation. It may be helpful to consider the following questions in preparation for the mediation:

- What specific issues and concerns should be discussed?
- Who should participate in the mediation?
- What outcome are you hoping for?
- What ideas or suggestions do you have that will help to resolve the conflict?
- What do the children need now?
- What can family members do to meet each child's needs?
- What can the Human Services Agency do to meet each child's needs?
- What does each parent need to do to provide a safe environment for their child/ren?
- What can be done to enhance the relationship between family members and the Human Services Agency?
- Are there other issues that need to be discussed that haven't been addressed before?

MULTI-OPTION ADR PROJECT
JUVENILE MEDIATION PROGRAM
DEPENDENCY MEDIATION
222 PAUL SCANNELL DRIVE
SAN MATEO, CA 94402

Multi-Option ADR Project

A PARTNERSHIP OF THE SAN MATEO
COURT, BAR & COMMUNITY



JUVENILE MEDIATION PROGRAM
DEPENDENCY MEDIATION

BACKGROUND

The Juvenile Mediation Program for Dependency cases is a collaborative effort of the Multi-Option ADR Project of the San Mateo County Court, Bar Association, Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center and the San Mateo County Human Services Agency. The program is available to families referred through the court who are involved in the juvenile dependency process where there is concern about the safety and well-being of a child. Cases can be referred to mediation by the Juvenile Court at the request of Human Services Agency, attorneys, child advocates and/or family members.

WHAT IS JUVENILE DEPENDENCY MEDIATION?

Juvenile Dependency Mediation is a structured but informal meeting (up to 3 hours) designed to assist family members, or others connected with a case, to resolve issues concerning the safety and well-being of the children involved.

- The mediation can involve parents, guardians, relatives, children, foster-parents, social workers, attorneys or child advocates.
- Mediation can be used to clear up misunderstandings, to discuss concerns, to clarify what is expected from family members and to work out plans to improve the situation.
- The information discussed in mediation is confidential.
- The service is **FREE**.
- Mediations are scheduled at a time and location that is convenient for participants.

THE MEDIATORS

- Encourage open and clear communication among all participants.
- Ensure that everyone's concerns are heard and understood.
- Create an atmosphere of respect in which good faith discussions can take place.
- Help the participants explore and negotiate their own solutions.
- Assist with developing a written agreement.
- Do not give advice or make decisions.
- Are highly-trained volunteer mediators with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Juvenile Mediation Program Manager
222 Paul Scannell Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402
650-312-5269
or visit our website at: www.sanmateocourt.org/adr

WHEN CAN JUVENILE DEPENDENCY MEDIATION BE HELPFUL?

Many types of conflicts involving people connected to a dependency case can be resolved through mediation. Issues commonly addressed include:

- Visitation plans
- Identifying which family member will care for a child
- Guardianship issues
- Kinship adoption
- Family conflicts
- Sibling visitation
- Parent-child conflicts
- Post-adoption contact agreements
- Parent-teen disputes
- Parenting conflicts
- Communication problems between a parent and a social worker
- Issues between a social worker and a child advocate
- Child's educational or medical issues
- Issues between children/youth and foster parents