



Superior Court of California County of Orange

Cathy Harmon, Manager
Family Court Services

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM MEDIATION

Mediation provides a neutral setting where parents can work out an agreement about custody and a parenting plan that is in the best interest of their children.

With the help of the mediator you will:

- Focus on the needs of your children.
- Deal with the present and focus on solutions.
- Focus on positive issues and avoid blame.
- Consider the needs of the children and both parents.

The Goals of Mediation are:

- Encourage parents to listen to each others concerns with an open mind.
- Reduce conflict by setting aside fault and blame.
- Foster cooperation between parents.
- Assist parents in developing their own parenting plan that meets the needs of their children.

Only the parents are included in the first mediation session. Spouses, attorneys or grandparents will not be permitted. A mediator may ask you to return with your children for a follow-up appointment.

Mediation is confidential with the exception of suspected child abuse or threats of harm to another.

Mediators do not:

- Make recommendations to the court on custody or visitation issues.
- Give legal advice or enforce orders.

Mediation appointments take one to two hours.

There is no charge for mediation.

Child care is available for children age two and older. The child must be out of diapers and or pull-ups. However, if possible please make your own arrangements for childcare.