



What if you could have one chance to take back control of your lives, and show the court that you & your co-parent can create your own agreement, and possibly close your case sooner? Well, get ready & clear your schedule, because two expert mediators have cleared their schedules for you. We volunteer our time for you, because we believe more peaceful families live better, happier, more successful lives. In court, the judge has little time for all the many details that give you the best chance at co-parenting more peacefully & successfully. In mediation, you decide by agreement. Mediations are currently by remote video conference.

**8:45am to 4:00pm:** **Mediations are day-long “agreement-creation workshops”.** **You must be focused on this important day, not at work or multi-tasking.** **You must be in a private location.**

**Benefits:** Coparenting is the hardest relationship in the world. Mediation is a safe space to begin to end the war and begin the peace. Mediation is focused on the future, not the past. It's your chance to learn how to negotiate and agree with each other, and avoid returning to the dependency court system.

**Objective:** We help you negotiate your own customized, detailed “Co-Parenting Plan” (visitation schedule), to help avoid future confusion and frustration. A Co-Parenting Plan includes things like: Monthly Schedule, Transportation & Exchange Plan, Communication Plan, Travel and Vacation Plan, Holiday Schedule, and we will help identify visit supervisors (monitors), if needed. Note that the court decides: custody, overnights or no overnights, supervised (monitored) or unsupervised (unmonitored) visitation, and other safety issues.

**Other Requirements:** You must have a working email, an internet connection for the day, and a way to join a Zoom video meeting. A “Mediation And Confidentiality” (MAC) Agreement must be signed by all participants.

- **Mediation is Voluntary.** You may be ordered to show-up, but you cannot be ordered to agree to anything.
- **Mediation is Confidential.** We don't make recommendations to the court. What is discussed in mediation cannot be used or discussed in court.
- **As “omni-partial” Mediators:** We will assist you by actively negotiating with and for both sides, and offer suggestions based on our experience. We do not and cannot provide legal advice. We don't judge you or evaluate your agreement. Only you and your co-parent can determine the outcome.

**Participation:** Be in a private location with no one else listening-in, during the mediation. Be focused on this difficult but valuable day. Attorneys are welcome, but not required. (Most attorneys do not attend.) These are adult conversations, not suitable for kids. We will reach out to the child's attorney. Support persons may attend at the discretion of the mediator(s), and must sign our MAC Agreement, but do not get a vote on the agreement. We are a teaching and learning organization, so a mediator may observe confidentially.

**Process:**

1. **Attorneys schedule appointments** at: [www.DependencyMediation.org](http://www.DependencyMediation.org)
2. **Parents/Guardians are sent 2 emails:**
  - a. MAC Agreement to sign from “HelloSign”, and
  - b. *Mediation Information*, a Zoom link, and a start time confirming the date, from “Caseload Manager”.
    - i. You may need to search your Junk or Spam folder for hellosign or caseload manager.
3. **Day of Mediation:** We provide staggered start times:
  - a. One co-parent begins at 8:45AM Pacific Time; and
  - b. One co-parent begins at 9:30AM-9:45AM.
  - c. Mediators then “shuttle” back and forth. We would ask your permission before meeting all together.
  - d. We will type your agreement in plain language, and review it with you in detail.
  - e. The final unsigned Mediated Agreement will be emailed BCC to attorneys & parents, for review and discussion.
  - f. You will receive a survey to tell us how we did.

**Contact:** Family Services, Supervising Coordinator, Naomi Tillman: 818-575-6900, [mediation@socalfm.org](mailto:mediation@socalfm.org)