



MEDIATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY “MAC” AGREEMENT
Southern California Family Mediation Inc. (SCFM)

By signing this mediation and confidentiality agreement, I hereby understand and agree:

1. **To clear my schedule for the day of mediation from 8:45am to 4:00pm.** (It may or may not end earlier.)
2. **To remain focused on this important day, not at work or multi-tasking.**
3. **To arrange to be in a private location for the duration of the mediation.**
4. **Mediation communications are confidential.** What is discussed in mediation cannot be used or discussed in court. A mediator may not be subpoenaed to testify.
 - a. Introducing otherwise existing information into mediation doesn't necessarily make it confidential.
 - b. If a party raises new, unique allegations, the mediator(s) will: 1) Pause or stop the mediation, 2) Refer the parties to their attorneys, and 3) Discuss with the attorneys how to best proceed.
 - c. If you share something private with the mediator(s) that you do not want your co-parent to know, make that clear to the mediator(s), otherwise the mediator(s) will use their own discretion.
 - d. As a teaching and learning nonprofit organization, student mediators or others, bound by the rules of mediation confidentiality, may observe.
5. **Mediation is voluntary.**
 - a. A court may order parties to appear in good faith for mediation. Courts decide safety issues. Within what the court will allow, the parents control if there will be an agreement and what that agreement will be. Mediation cannot change an order of a Court.
 - b. The court may be informed who didn't appear or wasn't available, but we don't recommend to a court.
 - c. Mediator(s) may withdraw from or discontinue a mediation. A parent may request a mediator be withdrawn from a mediation by contacting SCFM at: 818-575-6900 or mediation@socalfm.org.
6. **A mediator cannot give legal advice.** Mediators do not judge you or decide for you. Mediators will suggest solutions, but a mediator cannot decide the outcome. Get your legal advice from your attorney.
7. **Participation:**
 - a. Your attorney is welcome to participate, but is not required. You may consult with your attorney, anytime.
 - b. To avoid involving children in adult conflicts, mediators will attempt to reach the child(ren)'s attorney.
 - c. Mediator(s) may allow support persons to attend, but they do not get a vote in the final agreement.
8. **A Mediated Agreement reached by the parents** will be provided to the attorneys on the case for discussion and review, and potentially for submission to the court.
9. **A Mediated Agreement** is nonbinding (does not go into effect) until it is approved by a court. Ask your attorney for details. Seek advice from an attorney, before agreeing to anything that could affect your legal rights.

I hereby understand and agree to all of the above rules and conditions to mediate.

Name: _____	Signature: _____	Date: _____
Name: _____	Signature: _____	Date: _____
Name: _____	Signature: _____	Date: _____
Name: _____	Signature: _____	Date: _____
Name: _____	Signature: _____	Date: _____
Name: _____	Signature: _____	Date: _____