

Mediation Information

By: *Southern California Family Mediation*

www.DependencyMediation.org



If you don't see the email with your start time and meeting link, check spam, and then contact us.

Mediations are (up to) day-long agreement-creation workshops (9:00am to 4:30pm).

A. Goals:

1. Provide a safe space to end the wars and begin the peace.
2. Self-determination: Give parents an opportunity to take control of & responsibility for their future.
3. Parents learn how to negotiate more successfully & less harmfully.
4. A detailed plan, customized by parents avoids confusion & frustration.
5. Stop families returning: An adversarial legal system is no place for kids to grow up.

B. Objective: Co-parents produce their own Parenting Plan Agreement, commonly including:

1. Parenting Time / Visitation Schedule
2. Transportation & Exchange Plan
3. Communication Plan
4. Holiday Schedule
5. Identify Visit Supervisors (as needed)
6. Travel & Vacation (optional)

C. Requirements:

1. Unfortunately, a remote mediation cannot be scheduled (by an attorney) without working email addresses for both (or all) participants.
2. A MAC (Mediation and Confidentiality) agreement must be signed by all participants.
3. Court decides: Custody, overnights, supervised, and safety issues.

D. Mediation is Voluntary. Parents may be ordered to attend, but cannot be made to agree.

E. Mediation is Confidential. Mediators do not make recommendations to the Court.

F. Multi-partial: Mediators will actively assist negotiating with & for both sides, offering suggestions based on experience, but never legal advice. We don't judge you, and together you will decide the outcome.

G. Participation:

1. Attorneys are welcome, but not required. (Most attorneys do not attend.)
2. These are adult conversations, not suitable for kids. We reach out to the child's attorney.
3. Support persons may attend, at the discretion of the mediators, and must sign the MAC agreement, but may not actively participate.

H. Process:

1. Attorneys schedule appointments at: www.DependencyMediation.org or ccadr.org.
2. Mediations are currently remote by video conference. You must remain in a private location.
3. Parents/Guardians are sent "**Mediation Information**" a standard "**Mediation and Confidentiality**" (MAC) agreement to sign, a Zoom link, and a start time confirming the date chosen by attorneys.
4. Day of Mediation: You must be in a private location, focused only on the mediation to participate.
 - i. For comfort and safety, we provide staggered start times. One parent begins at 9:00am and another at 10:00am. Mediators "shuttle" back and forth. We would ask your permission, before meeting all together.
5. We are a teaching and learning organization. You may have a mediator observing confidentially.
6. Together, we expect to produce a Parenting Plan attachment for the JV-200 exit order.
7. A final unsigned Mediated Agreement or Memorandum will be emailed BCC to all attorneys & parents, to discuss/review. You will receive a survey to tell the volunteers how we did for you.

Note: Loyola's process is different.

I. Contacts:

1. Mediations: Nellie Tillman: mediation@socalfm.org
2. Program: Randy Drew: 818-257-0007 | mediation@socalfm.org
3. Attorneys: Contact us to sign our MAC, if you will attend the mediation.