

CHILD INCLUSIVE MEDIATION

Child Inclusive Mediation (CIM) is a structured process in which a neutral, trained child advocate meets with the child(ren) and shares developmentally appropriate feedback with the parents in mediation. The mediator helps parents reflect on that information and uses it to reach child focused, durable agreements.

WHY CIM MATTERS

- **Reduces Conflict for Children:** Children are not put in the middle and do NOT have to choose sides or make parenting time decisions.
- **Informs Better Decisions:** Parents gain insight into their child's experience, needs and hopes. No assumptions.
- **Promotes Parental Cooperation:** A shared understanding of the child's perspective helps parents move from positional conflict to problem solving.
- **Protects Children:** The process is guided by professionals trained in child development, trauma-informed practices and family systems.
- **Supports Agreements:** When children's needs are understood and addressed, parenting plans are more stable and child-centered.



THE CIM PROCESS

- **Parent Preparation:** The Mediator meets with the parents to explain the process, obtain informed consent and set expectations.
- **Child Interview:** a trained child advocate meets with the child(ren) in a safe, neutral setting appropriate to their developmental level.
- **Feedback to Parents:** The advocate shares general themes and insights with the parents about the child's lived experiences and needs.
- **Parent Reflection:** The mediator helps parents reflect on what they have heard, manage emotions and keep the focus on the child's wellbeing.
- **Child Focused Agreements:** Parents use the insight to create practical, child centered parenting plans and resolutions.

WHAT PROFESSIONALS NEED TO KNOW

Attorneys: CIM is voluntary and does not replace advocacy. The child advocate does not provide legal advice. CIM can reduce litigation, support settlement and promotes client satisfaction.

Judges: CIM aligns with the Best Interest of the Child by ensuring the child's perspective, needs and lived experiences are considered age appropriately.

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