

WHY MEDIATION?

Raising children and related issues are different from many other disputes that occur in a family's life. If families can resolve issues concerning children amongst themselves, the more likely all will maintain a positive relationship with one another and avoid costly legal battles. Some of the difficult family issues that arise may be solved through the use of mediation techniques. Individuals with a sincere interest in meeting the needs of children involved can develop a workable plan and place child rearing responsibilities ahead of their urge to fight out all their disputes. For those who can meet this challenge, the mediation process will be a rewarding and beneficial experience.

NOTICE

This pamphlet is to help you understand your options. It is not intended to advise you about the law as the law can be different in each case.

If you would like to consult an attorney, please call the Medina County Bar Association at (330) 725-9794.



The Honorable Kevin W. Dunn is one of four Common Pleas Court Judges in Medina County. Judge Dunn was appointed in 2013.

The Medina County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18, including those categorized as unruly, delinquent, abused, neglected or dependent.

In addition to serving as our county's Juvenile Judge, Judge Dunn is the Probate Judge.



KEVIN W. DUNN

**MEDINA COUNTY
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE**



OUTSIDE CUSTODY MEDIATORS 2018

**Medina County Juvenile Court
93 Public Square
Medina, OH 44256**

**Phone: (330) 725-9709
Fax: (330) 725-9173**

**Monday—Friday
8:00 AM—4:30 PM**

WHAT IS COURT MEDIATION?

Mediation is a process involving a neutral, trained mediator to assist parties (and sometimes their legal counsel) in arriving at a mutually acceptable resolution of their legal issues. Mediation strives to involve parties in finding their own resolution to their dispute and assist them in reaching a mutually acceptable result. Mediation can save parties a great deal of time and money when compared with taking a case through a full trial.

Mediators and the mediation process are governed by state and local rules and must comply with the Uniform Mediation Act of Ohio. Mediation is confidential. This means that the potential terms of agreement cannot be testified to in court. The

mediator cannot be called as a witness unless there is information given that a child might be the victim of abuse or neglect, the mediator is told of a party's intent to harm themselves, the other party or another individual, or that a party is planning to commit or is in the process of committing a felony and shares that information with the mediator.

Parties can be referred to mediation by the Court, their attorney(s), or can self-refer. Upon referral, the parties contact the mediator to schedule an appointment. A mediator will meet with the parties together but may choose to meet with parties individually as well. The mediator will determine how many sessions of mediation will be completed based on the parties' ability and willingness to reach agreement. If the parties are able to reach agreement in mediation, the mediator will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding for the parties to review with counsel (if applicable). Parties can then have their legal counsel convert that Memorandum

of Understanding into an acceptable court order. If neither party has counsel, the Court may hold a final hearing to formalize the agreement of the parties and prepare and Agreeed Court Order. If the parties are unable to reach agreement, the Court will be notified only that no agreement was reached and the case will proceed with further hearing.

The following mediators are qualified pursuant to the Ohio Rules of Superintendence. This list is not exhaustive. Parties may use other mediators as long as the chosen mediator complies with all state and local rules regarding mediator qualifications.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS LIST IS GIVEN ONLY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES. THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST. PARTIES MAY USE QUALIFIED MEDIATORS FOUND THROUGH OTHER SOURCES. THIS COURT DOES NOT RECOMMEND OR ENDORSE ANY SPECIFIC MEDIATOR.



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