

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF INYO
168 North Edwards Street (P.O. Drawer U) Independence, California 93526
Telephone: (760) 878-0219
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FAMILY LAW MEDIATION INSTRUCTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

(Rev. 12-03-07)

In any case, including actions for dissolution of marriage, legal separation, paternity, and/or domestic violence restraining orders, where there is any dispute as to child custody and/or visitation, the parties (parents) are ordered to participate, in good faith, in “mediation.”

If you are represented by counsel, you should discuss any questions you might have with your attorney. If you are not represented by counsel, you may (at your own expense) consult with an attorney of your choice.

Both parents must do the following:

- 1. See the Inyo County Family Law Facilitator to**
 - a. Complete the “Intake Form for Child Custody Mediation,”**
 - b. Complete the “Domestic Violence Assessment,” and**
 - c. Complete the Pre-Mediation Orientation;**
- 2. Agree upon a Mediator and schedule an appointment for mediation; and,**
- 3. Participate in mediation in good faith.**

CONTACT THE FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR FOR INTAKE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT, AND ORIENTATION

Before contacting a mediator, you must make an appointment with the Inyo County Family Law Facilitator to complete a general intake questionnaire entitled “Intake Form for Child Custody Mediation,” a domestic violence assessment form, and complete the pre-mediation orientation program. The pre-mediation orientation includes watching a 30-minute video tape which explains what mediation is about. The video must be watched at the offices of the Family Law Facilitator. The Family Law Facilitator will provide you with a document verifying that you have completed the intake process, domestic violence assessment, and watched the pre-mediation video. You will show the document to the mediator and bring it with you to court.

You are also required to read the “Orientation to Family Court Mediation - Parent Handbook.” Copies of the “Parent Handbook” are available at the offices of the Court Clerk or the Family Law Facilitator.

Call the Family Law Facilitator if you reside out of the area, and see if special arrangements can be made for you to comply with these court requirements.

The Inyo County **Family Law Facilitator** is **Ms. Sharon Remley**.
To contact the Family Law Facilitator: Call (760) 872-4444
Fax: (760) 872-4448

Office Address:

**Inyo County Family Law Facilitator/
Inyo Legal Self-Help Center
314 West Line Street, Suite H
Bishop, CA 93514**

You may call and schedule an appointment or walk-in. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MEDIATION

The parties (parents) are directed to agree on a mediator. You may select any mediator you wish, however, the court can only pay for mediation services provided by a mediator who is on the list of “Court Approved Family Law Mediators.”

Court mediators have agreed to the court’s compensation schedule, and have demonstrated they meet the qualifications for a mediator set forth in the California Family Code and California Rules of Court.

If you elect to use a mediator who is not on the court’s current list of approved “court mediators,” you will be responsible for paying the mediator’s fees. If you use a “court mediator” the court will pay the costs of mediation. You may use a mediator (at your own expense) who is not on the list of “court mediators,” and if mediation is not successful then utilize the services of a “court mediator,” or you may initially use a “court mediator.”

The Court Clerk’s Office maintains a list of approved “court mediators.” This list is entitled “Court Approved Family Law Mediators.” **A copy of the current list of “Court Approved Family Law Mediators” is attached.** Both of these lists can be obtained at the Court Clerk’s Office in Bishop (301 W. Line Street), or in the Courthouse in Independence. The lists are also available at the Inyo County Family Law Facilitator’s Office in Bishop, or either the Independence or Bishop Office of the Inyo County District Attorney’s Victim-Witness Office.

You must schedule an appointment for mediation as soon as possible. However, you must first meet with the Family Law Facilitator to complete the intake form, domestic violence assessment, and the pre-mediation orientation before your appointment for mediation. Also, mediation must be completed before your next court appearance.

It is very important that you inform the Family Law Facilitator and the mediator if your case involves allegations of **domestic violence**. If so, upon your request, the mediator will coordinate mediation sessions so that you are seen separately and other safety precautions are put in place.

Telephone the Family Law Facilitator if you reside out-of-state or a significant distance from Inyo County, and if your personal appearance for mediation within Inyo County would cause an undue hardship. You may request a specific court order to accommodate your needs including telephonic mediation. Telephonic mediation is generally not as successful as in-person mediation, and is therefore not favored.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Family Law mediation in Inyo County is confidential. In other words, if you do not reach an agreement, the mediator does not make a recommendation to the court regarding a parenting plan. However, if you do reach an agreement, the mediator will report your agreement to the Court. If you reach a partial agreement, with your consent, the mediator will report to the court your partial agreement, and a description of the issues still in dispute, without specific reference to either party. Any agreement, or partial agreement, can be disclosed to your attorney. You will have the opportunity to discuss your mediation agreement with your attorney, if any, before it becomes an order of the Court.

There are limited situations where the mediator must report information, including, but not limited to, possible child abuse, child neglect, or when a person is a danger to others.

Also, the mediator may make any or all of the following recommendations to the Court:

1. Pursuant to Family Code (FC) Section 3183(b), that a child custody evaluation or investigation be conducted under FC § 3110;
2. Pursuant to FC § 3184, that an attorney be appointed under FC § 3150 to represent the child or children;
3. That the parties (parents) be ordered under FC § 3190 to participate in a “co-parenting” or other counseling program; and/or,
4. Pursuant to FC § 3183(c), that restraining orders be issued, pending determination of the controversy, to protect the well-being of the child or children involved in the controversy.

If you have any questions, please consult with your attorney or the Family Law Facilitator.