

## Privacy and Child Custody Mediation (Child Custody or visitation recommendation not made)

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### **What is child custody mediation?**

In child custody mediation, the parents (or guardians) meet with a mediator and try to agree on a parenting plan for their children.

### **Does the mediator keep a record of our information?**

The mediator may make a file that contains information about your case. The file may include any information you give to the mediator.

### **Is the information I give in mediation confidential?**

The mediator will keep information about your case confidential except in the following circumstances:

- The mediator believes that a child has been abused or neglected.
- The mediator thinks that one of the people involved may hurt himself or herself or someone else. The mediator may have to contact the police and warn a threatened person.

In addition, the mediator may recommend to the judge that:

- A lawyer be appointed for your children.
- An evaluation or investigation of the child custody issues be conducted.
- A restraining order be issued to protect a child in your case.

The mediator or other court staff may tell the court that there are other court cases involving your family.

### **What happens if we agree on a parenting plan?**

You and the other parent (or guardian), or the mediator, will let the court know about your agreement.

### **What happens if we don't agree on a parenting plan?**

Your case will be sent back to the judge for a hearing.

### **Will my address be kept private?**

The mediator will make reasonable efforts to keep your home address, work address, and contact information private.

### **What if a support person is present?**

You may have the right to have a support person with you in mediation if there has been domestic violence in your family. Mediations is still confidential if a support person is present. The support person must not disclose any information that is shared in mediation.