

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

MEDIATION IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO RESOLVE MANY FAMILY ISSUES. THE MEDIATOR IS A TRAINED PROFESSIONAL WHO SUPPORTS AND EMPOWERS PEOPLE, HELPING THEM TO HAVE A PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION.

Mediation is:

- **Voluntary** – Court ordered to make a good faith effort, which may or may not result in an agreement
- **Confidential** - No information is shared with the court unless an agreement is reached
- **Proven** – Mediation has a long history of helping couples resolve their disputes so they can move on with their lives

Benefits for Adults:

- **Effective** - People work out their own agreements with the mediator's help
- **Quick** - It can often take just a couple of hours
- **Satisfying** - You participate in finding a solution. Avoids the stress that accompanies a court battle.
- **Empowering** - You can resolve legal issues including parental rights, property distribution, and alimony. Reaching an agreement allows you, not a judge, to decide your future
- **Affordable** – Mediation is reasonable in price and likely to be less expensive than a court battle

Benefits for Children:

- **You can create a timesharing agreement that is sensitive to your children's needs that allows them to continue to have meaningful relationships with both parents**
 - **Minimize children's sense of loss** – Divorce can have profound consequences that are not identified until later in life
 - **Maximize relationships** – Identify ways to increase the feeling of family and support
 - **Increase children's sense of security** - Conflict in front of children can be damaging to their own self image
 - **Address age related needs of children** – Find a parenting arrangement appropriate for the needs of your child, based on their developmental stage
 - **A mediated agreement saves your children from being caught between warring parents and feeling guilty over conflicting loyalties**
 - **Reaching an agreement helps you develop a working relationship with your children's other parent that will make it easier to resolve problems that may arise in the future**
 - **The reduced stress allows you to better meet your children's increased need for nurturance and attention**

How the Mediation Program of the 19th Judicial Circuit works:

- **After receiving an order for mediation, you call mediation services to schedule mediation**
- **You pay a preset fee and attend the mediation**
- **The mediator is neutral, does not take sides**
- **Each person tells their story**
- **The mediator helps you address the issues that are important to you and explore alternative solutions**
- **If you arrive at an agreement, the mediator will help you create a document to clearly outline each issue**

Nineteenth Circuit Court - Family Mediation Program



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL

CIRCUIT

MEDIATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete this Questionnaire and return it in the self-addressed envelope provided as soon as possible. The following questions relate to you and the other person in this case. This form and any other communications with the mediator are confidential and privileged to the extent provided by sections 44.401- 44.406, Florida Statutes.

Mediation is a process in which two people work together with a neutral third person (the mediator) to discuss the issues in their case to try to work them out. Mediation often occurs with both people in the same room.

1. Are you afraid of the other person? Yes No
2. Is contact between you and the other person limited by a court order (such as an injunction, a no contact order in a criminal case, etc.)? Yes No
3. Do you believe you can express your needs and concerns in the presence of the other person and the mediator? Yes No
4. If you have children, do you believe you can express the needs and concerns of your children in the presence of the other person and the mediator? Yes No
5. If you answered no to question 3 or question 4, would you be able to express your needs and concerns and those of your children with the mediator only? Yes No
6. Do you believe that during mediation you would be intimidated by the other person into accepting an unfair result? Yes No

OTHER
COMMENTS: _____

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR PHYSICAL SAFETY DURING MEDIATION, PLEASE CALL THE MEDIATION OFFICE AT (772) 807-4375 OR DISCUSS WITH THE MEDIATOR PRIOR TO THE MEDIATION.

According to Florida Statute 44.102(2)(c): “. . . Upon motion or request of a party, a court shall not refer any case to mediation if it finds there has been a history of domestic violence that would compromise the mediation process.”

Signature _____

Print Name _____

County/ Case # _____

Mediation Date _____

List of Family Resources

<p><u>2-1-1 HelpLine</u> Provides around-the-clock, toll-free information, referral, crisis counseling and suicide prevention services.</p>	<p>2-1-1 http://www.211treasurecoast.org</p>
<p><u>The ARC of Martin County</u> Provides disabled individuals with opportunities to build social skills and participate in community-based activities.</p>	<p>(772) 283-2525 http://www.arcmc.org/</p>
<p><u>Catholic Charities of the Palm Beach Diocese</u> Provides professional counseling on a sliding fee scale to help low-income individuals and families in need.</p>	<p>(772) 283-0541 http://www.diocesepb.org/charities/</p>
<p><u>Children's Emergency Resources</u> Provides medical, ophthalmologic and dental services for low-income, uninsured children and youth.</p>	<p>(772) 223-0979 http://www.childrensemergencyresources.org</p>
<p><u>Children's Home Society of Florida</u> Provides a safe harbor for a child suffering from abuse and reverses crisis situations so lives are changed for the better, through a continuum of core services for families and children.</p>	<p>(772) 287-8009 http://www.chsfl.org/</p>
<p><u>Hibiscus Children's Center</u> Provides in-home services to families in crisis to prevent child abuse and neglect and keep children safe.</p>	<p>(772) 334-9311 http://www.hibiscuschildrenscenter.org</p>
<p><u>Jesus House of Hope</u> Provides direct emergency assistance including food, shelter and medicine to the "working poor" and elderly on fixed income.</p>	<p>(772) 286-4673</p>
<p><u>Martin County Healthy Start Coalition</u> Provides community education, advocacy and resources to help ensure families have access to prenatal, delivery, pediatric and oral health care services.</p>	<p>(772) 463-2888</p>
<p><u>SafeSpace</u> Provides safe emergency housing/shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.</p>	<p>(772) 288-7023 (Martin) (772) 464-4555 (St. Lucie) (772) 569-7233 (Indian River)</p>
<p><u>Port St. Lucie (HCA)</u> Port St. Lucie (HCA) offers specially designed short term inpatient detoxification and longer-term inpatient treatment programs for adults and adolescents to provide safe detoxification and solution-focused treatment. Request psychiatric wing/division of the hospital.</p>	<p>(772) 335-0400 http://www.addictionresourceguide.com/listings/savannas.html</p>
<p><u>Alcoholics Anonymous of Martin County</u></p>	<p>(772) 283-9337 http://www.martincountyaa.org/</p>
<p><u>Comprehensive Alcoholism Rehabilitation Programs, Inc (CARP)</u></p>	<p>(561)389-1321</p>
<p><u>Florida Coalition against Domestic Violence</u></p>	<p>(800)500-1119</p>
<p><u>Martha's House</u></p>	<p>(863) 763-0202 (Okeechobee)</p>