

- Where your children will live
- Visitation
- How you will continue to be good parents
- Child or spousal support

What if it doesn't work?

It is not your fault if mediation doesn't work - in some cases agreement cannot be reached through mediation. You can have your lawyer try to reach a negotiated settlement, or take the matter to court for a Judge to decide.

Is it the same as counseling?

Mediation is not counseling for couples that want to stay together. If you think you want to stay together, talk to your social worker or counselor to arrange family counseling.

Call **1-866-217-8923** to talk privately about what is happening in your family and how a mediator can help.



Canada

Separate... together.

Mediation can help parents who are separating or divorcing to talk about:

Mediation.

A co-operative approach to separating and divorce.

Begin a better ending

You will work together to try

Benefits of using Mediation.

- 1 Private and confidential** That means you don't have to tell anyone what you talk about. Neither of you can use anything said in mediation in court.
- 2 You decide** what should happen. Because you are making the agreement, you are both much more likely to be happy with it and to do what it says.
- 3 Usually faster** than going to court - agreements are often reached after a few hours.

What is a mediator?

A mediator is a neutral person. They do not take sides and are not personally affected by the result. Unlike a judge or arbitrator, a mediator can't make decisions for you.

What does a mediator do?

The mediator is a person who has special training and helps parents talk together about their children, focus on common interests, and decide on possible answers to their problems.

Will I have to pay the mediator?

The **government will pay for the mediator to meet with you up to seven hours** - one hour by yourself and six hours to talk with the other person to develop an agreement. If you need more time, talk to the mediator about how you can keep working together. Legal Aid may cover the costs, or you may have to pay.

What will happen when I decide to try mediation?

- 1 The mediator will meet with each of you privately** to explain what is likely to happen when mediation begins. You will also talk about any concerns you may have.
- 2 Mediation begins when the mediator meets with both people.** You will both be asked to sign a short agreement indicating that you are willing to work towards a settlement and participate in good faith. You will talk about how to communicate respectfully and honestly.
- 3 You will both tell your side of the story** and talk about what is really important to you.
- 4 You will try to think of as many ways as possible to reach decisions** that are in the best interests of your children.
- 5 You will choose from all the ideas and possible solutions** you have come up with, keeping in mind what is really important: your children.
- 6 Once an agreement is reached,** the mediator will prepare an agreement for you both to sign. Before signing, you should take it to your lawyer to receive legal advice. This agreement may be filed in court.

Begin a better ending