

Mission

The mission of the Children's Law Center is to protect the interest of low income children in family court and to advocate policies that advance their well-being and best interests.

Through its programs and services the Children's Law Center strives to create safe, stable environments for children whose parents are in chronic conflict. To achieve these goals the Children's Law Center manages several programs including:

- Legal representation for children in family court.
- Legal help-line that provides information and referrals on topics related to family law and children's rights
- Families in Transition mediation and co-parenting educations program
- Support for lawyers who represent children
- Advocacy for systemic change regarding the rights and treatment of children.

Families In TRANSITION

For Volunteer Opportunities Contact
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A Child Centered
Mediation Program
of the

Children's
LAW
CENTER

Families in Transition: A Child Centered Mediation Program

Do I qualify for the program?

To be eligible, both parties must be willing to engage in mediation, despite a court order.

How can I get mediation services?

Both parties must directly contact The Children's Law Center at 860-232-9993 to complete an intake. Once an intake is completed, by both parties your case will be activated, or placed on the waitlist if necessary.

How much does it cost?

Families in Transition charges according to a sliding scale fee. This means that the fee is calculated according to income.

The fee scale ranges from \$10.00 to \$50.00 per session. The fee applies to each person separately and must be paid before each session.

How mediation can help you.

- Keeps children out of the middle
- Avoids high legal fees
- No court battles
- You keep control
- Communication skills
- Confidentiality
- Fair results

How does the program work?

Families In Transition is a voluntary program. Although the parties may be court ordered to attend; participation is voluntary and can be terminated at any time.

In the highest conflict cases, The Families in Transition mediators work in teams, in what is known as "co-mediation." We provide a male/female team consisting of a mental health professional and a person with a legal background; both of whom are knowledgeable about the family court process.

The mediators are impartial professionals who work with you and have an obligation to both of you.

Mediation provides an atmosphere that encourages mutual trust in which it is easier to communicate concerns. At the first meeting, the mediators help you identify the key issues in a safe, non-confrontational environment. Next, the mediators will guide you through each issue, making sure that each of you has full information before helping you to reach a compromise.

You will receive a letter summarizing what was agreed upon during each session. This letter may then be used as a reference for drafting any legal documents to be presented by you to the court.

What is mediation?

Mediation is a voluntary way for people to work out an agreement concerning such issues as:

- Divorce/Separation
- Asset/Debt Division
- Spousal/Child Support
- Parenting Plan

Mediation is a way to work out a fair, legally enforceable settlement, while keeping your disagreement from becoming a bitter, endless, and expensive war.

In mediation, you control every decision affecting your family, money, and life. The mediators help you examine your situation in terms of your needs and interests but you never give up control to strangers and mediation is confidential.

Why choose mediation?

The Children's Law Center is committed to protecting children from the harm that high conflict parenting disputes cause.

The focus of mediation is on problem solving. Most couples who mediate become better at both communicating and parenting as they restructure their relationship.

Will I get a fair deal?

Studies have shown that settlements are similar in mediated and non-mediated divorces, putting an end to the common perception that people will "get more" by going to court. In addition, mediated agreements are most often observed, avoiding problems later on. Mediation is what you make of it. If both parents are willing and open to participate in the process then mediation will be successful.