

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO
NOT REACH AN
AGREEMENT?

Your case will proceed in the normal course. Each party will present their case and the court will make a determination.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE
COURT HAS NOT ORDERED
MEDIATION, BUT I WOULD
LIKE TO PARTICPATE IN
MEDIATION?

You may request mediation at any time. Submit that request in writing and file it with the Clerk. You may also request mediation on the record during your court proceeding.

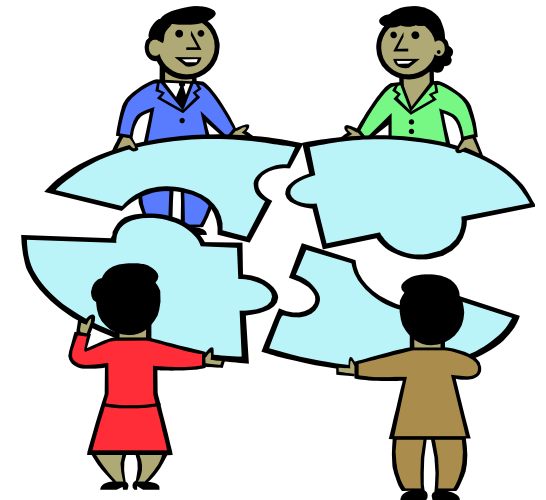
If you have any questions please call:

**Family Law
Office**

410-313-2225

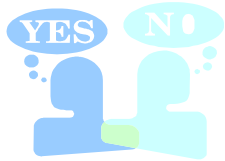
THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR
HOWARD COUNTY
CINA/TPR MEDIATION
PROGRAM

*Establishing
Permanence in
Children's Lives*



The Circuit Court for Howard County
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Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
410-313-2225
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WHAT IS MEDIATION?



1. Mediation helps you play a role in the decision-making process.
2. Mediation helps both parents and children participate in deciding their family's future.
3. Mediation in CINA/TPR cases helps to achieve a permanent living arrangement for children.

The Maryland Rules define mediation as: Mediation. – “Mediation means a process in which the parties work with one or more impartial mediators who, without providing legal advice, assist the parties in reaching their own voluntary agreement for the resolution of the dispute or issues in the dispute. A mediator may identify issues and options, assist the parties or their attorneys in exploring the needs underlying their respective positions, and, upon request, record points of agreement reached by the parties. While acting as a mediator, the mediator does not engage in arbitration, neutral case evaluation,

neutral fact-finding, or other alternative dispute resolution processes and does not recommend the terms of an agreement.”

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE COURT ORDERS MEDIATION?

1. You will receive a copy of the court order through your attorney, in the mail, or electronically. The court order will include the date and time of the mediation, as well as the name of the mediator.
2. You should report to the court the date of the mediation and be prepared to discuss your case.

WHO WILL BE PRESENT DURING THE MEDIATION SESSION?

The following people may be present for the mediation:

Mother, Father, Step-Mother, Step-Father, the Child, Siblings, Foster Parents, Court-Appointed-Special-Advocate (CASA), Social Workers, Attorneys, Mediators, and Court Staff.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MEDIATION SESSION?

1. All participants meet in the designated area to be directed to the location of the mediation session.
2. All participants begin the session by introducing themselves. After everyone is acquainted, everyone must sign a confidentiality agreement. This binds all participants to keep everything discussed confidential.
3. There will be 1-2 mediators present to discuss your cases and help resolve as many of the issues as possible.
4. If an agreement is reached, the mediators will ask if you will be willing to place it in writing and on the record.

WHY SHOULD WE GO TO MEDIATION INSTEAD OF COURT?

Mediation may reduce the length of time your case remains in the court system. You may still have future court dates, but if you are able to reach an agreement the case may be concluded earlier.

