

State of Illinois
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Divorce & Family Mediation



What is mediation? Mediation is a process in which a mediator facilitates communication and negotiations between parents to assist them in reaching a voluntary agreement regarding specific aspects of their dispute. Sessions can last up to 60 minutes. The number of sessions will depend upon the needs of the parents or as ordered by the court.

Why should I go to mediation? Mediation is an opportunity for you and the other parent to make decisions together in the best interests of your child(ren), instead of the judge. Mediation also allows you to save time in reaching a resolution.

How do I prepare for mediation? The best way to prepare for mediation is to have all paperwork completed by the selected mediator, have your portion of the fee paid, and give some thought to how you and the other parent can create a parenting plan together that best meets the needs of your child(ren). Ask your attorney to schedule a meeting to discuss how best to plan scheduling, determine decision-making, and to tailor your suggestions to your child(ren).

Can the mediator tell others what I say in mediation? No, mediators must keep all information provided during the sessions confidential as required by law. However, threats of harm, child abuse, elder abuse, or illegal conduct shall be disclosed to the proper authorities.

What happens when mediation is over? Once mediation is complete, the mediator will draft a report to the Court, informing the judge whether an agreement was reached or not. If an agreement is reached, the mediator will send a copy for each party (or their attorney) to review before signing. Any agreement reached does not become an Order that you and the other parent must follow until it is approved and entered by the Judge in your case.

How do I find a mediator? You can find a mediator by visiting the McLean County Courthouse to obtain a list of certified mediators in the area. You can also visit the McLean County website for a list of court-approved Eleventh Judicial Circuit mediators at the address below:

<https://www.mcleancountyil.gov/1249/Family-Mediation>

