

Vermont Family Court Mediation Process

You can call any of the mediators listed on this website and the mediators will return your call and further explain the process. The mediator will ask some questions about your situation and then may suggest setting up an appointment for the two of you if appropriate.

After reviewing the list of mediators in your area, you may wish to call more than one mediator before making your selection.

Make Sure the Mediator

- Explains the mediation process and any ground rules.
- Informs you of his or her mediation training and experience.
- Informs you of his or her knowledge of the issues you want to address in mediation.
- Discloses any professional or personal relationships or potential biases involving any of the parties.
- Gives you an estimate of the time and fees involved.

A Mediator Should

- Be impartial and neutral.
- Maintain confidentiality and explain any exceptions at the beginning of the process.
- Make clear that the process is voluntary and that any party, including the mediator, may withdraw at any time for any reason.
- Make sure the mediation process feels safe and non-threatening.
- Make sure all the issues are considered.
- Be attentive to the needs of all other interested parties such as the children in the family.
- Assist parties in the most efficient use of time in reaching solutions.
- Be familiar with relevant legal issues in the dispute.
- Recommend legal, financial, or therapeutic counseling when necessary.
- Work for a fair agreement for all parties.

In Mediation You Should Feel

- Comfortable talking with your mediator.
- That the mediator is treating both sides fairly and listening to both sides.
- Better able to negotiate with the other party when the mediator is present.
- That you are freely involved in the process and assisted in exploring options for solutions.
- That any written agreement accurately expresses the work done in mediation.

About Subsidized Mediation and The Sliding Fee Scale

The mediators listed provide a sliding fee to eligible parents subsidized by the State of Vermont. The mediators are under contract with the Court Administrator of the Vermont Supreme Court.

Subsidized mediation is offered according to each individual parent's household income.

The mediator determines the fee per person per hour after reviewing the fee Application for Subsidy form (with proof of income attached).

Each eligible case is allowed up to 8 hours of subsidized mediator time.

Most mediators will expect payment at the end of each mediation session.

Some of the mediators bill parties for appointments canceled with less than 24 hours notice.