

What is mediation?

Mediation is a way to solve your problems. Getting a divorce or dealing with family issues can be hard. Mediation can help solve your disagreement.

What happens in mediation?

You and the other person will meet with the mediator. You will talk about your disagreement. The meetings will last about 90 minutes. Most people meet one to three times.

The mediator will help write an agreement. Mediators can help people write a parenting plan or another agreement.

After the meetings each person can have an attorney look at his or her agreement. Then it can be given to a judge for approval.

If you and the other person cannot solve any problems, then mediation will stop. Then either person can file papers in court to have the judge make the decisions.

What does a mediator do?

A person called a mediator runs the meeting. Mediators help people figure out their problems. Mediators will help to build better agreements, parenting plans and relationships.

The mediator keeps the meeting private. A mediator does not take sides. Mediators are fair. Mediators help create agreements that you can live with.

A mediator does NOT...

- Testify in court.
- Make decisions for you.
- Blame anyone.
- Pick a side.

Is mediation right for me?

(Mediation might be right for you if you can say yes to more than two questions below.)

1. Are both people willing to try mediation?
2. Do you and the other person want to make your own decisions?

3. Will both people sign an MLSA agreement to mediate?

How much will it cost?

MLSA helps people of low income. If you qualify for services, then mediation could be free.

Will I need an attorney?

No. Attorneys are not required.

Can I bring my attorney?

Yes. Your attorney can come to mediation if the other person agrees.

MLSA may be able to provide an attorney for you. We can only provide attorneys to low income clients. Our attorneys take on many cases, so we can't promise one.

Where can I mediate?

The MLSA mediation program is based in Helena. The program does provide limited services to other locations. We do offer video conferencing mediations.

Video conference centers are located statewide. If you are interested in learning more about video conferencing mediation please contact the MLSA helpline 800-666-6899.

Need more information about family law mediation? Or want to become a volunteer mediator?

Call the MLSA helpline 800-666-6899 to find out if you are eligible for our program or for some basic information. The helpline staff will help you with questions or concerns.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer mediator please call 800 - 686 - 4574 extension 210. MLSA mediation staff will help you with questions or concerns.

MLSA HelpLine: (800) 666-6899

Need legal help? Call the HelpLine. Open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.

MLSA staff will help you apply over the telephone. If you qualify, you could:

- get an appointment with an MLSA advocate, or
- be referred to a free attorney, or
- get signed up for a self-help class, or
- get self-help materials.

www.MontanaLawHelp.org

Need legal information? Go online. Visit www.MontanaLawHelp.org.

You can find information about legal problems such as divorce, parenting plans, landlord and tenant issues, and public benefits. You can also find information about getting legal help, community resources, and courts.

Can't find what you want? Use LiveHelp. Click on the LiveHelp picture and get help finding the information you need. This pamphlet is meant to give basic legal information, not legal advice about your problem. The law changes often and each case is different. This pamphlet may not apply to your problem. You should not rely on it only. Please talk to an attorney about your problem.

Montana Legal Services Association

Family Law Mediation Program



Providing, protecting, and enhancing access to justice.

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