

Legal Advice Appointments through the Family Transition Project

If you qualify for the Family Transition Project and your case is proceeding with mediation you can ask to be referred to an attorney for free legal advice.

Prior to your mediation we encourage you to speak to an attorney if you think you need legal advice. The mediator can provide you with **legal information** but they will not be able to provide you or the other party with **legal advice** at any point.

What is legal information?

Legal information is facts about the law and the legal process. This information may not be specific to your exact situation. Legal information is not an interpretation of the law to address your specific needs.

What is legal advice?

Legal advice is an attorney's legal opinion on the course of action you should take to further your own best interests. An attorney can tell you what they think you should do given your circumstances.

You are not limited to just one appointment with an attorney. There are three stages at which you can receive legal advice:

- **Prior to mediation.** Before your mediation date you can speak to an attorney about your current situation, ask for their opinion on what you are asking for and receive advice on how to proceed with your case.
- **During mediation.** If you decide that you need legal advice before you can continue with the mediation process you can ask the mediator to halt the meditation. You will then be matched with an attorney who will provide you with advice.
 - If you received advice in the prior stage, you will be able to speak to the same attorney.
- **After mediation.** You can ask to have an attorney review the court documents completed during mediation prior to filing them with the court.

To take full advantage of the appointment, we recommend that you:

1. Write down any questions you have in advance.
2. If there are any documents already filed with the court you should be prepared to share those with the attorney.
3. Let the attorney guide the conversation.

Please understand that neither the attorney nor Montana Legal Services represents you or will file documents on your behalf. It is up to you to keep track of any deadlines and to take any action necessary to preserve your rights.