

# **CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MEDIATION SERVICES**

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## **Reconstructive Co-Parenting Mediation**

Rebuilding the co-parenting relationship after the court has made a decision.

- 1) Reconstructive Co-Parenting Mediation operates with a Permanent Parenting Plan in place or with a court order (agreed or otherwise) that directs the parties to co-parenting mediation and gives guidance as to the Permanent Parenting Plan.**
- 2) Mediation sessions will focus on (a) carrying out the current Permanent Parenting Plan; (b) working to adjust or fine tune the plan as needed in an attempt to meet the needs of the children and the parties; (c) mending the parental relationship of the parties and addressing the underlying issues hindering reconstructive process.**
- 3) Memos of Understanding capturing any agreements made during the session will be provided at the close of the session. Agreements will be constructed by the parties and may include but not limited to: (a) communication plans; (b) co-parenting guidelines; (c) third party involvement; (d) medical/mental health treatment options; (e) decisions for children and/or parents; (f) Modification of current parenting plans; (h) other issues/items necessary for implementing and supporting the objectives or focus areas listed in Section Two above.**
- 4) Sessions will be on an ongoing basis as agreed upon by the parties or ordered by the Court. Typically parents meet at least once a month (or more if agreed upon) for a duration of six (6) to 18 months. The first session can last from two to five hours. The following session will last one to two hours. If a crises conflict arises between meetings, parties will meet if either requests an additional meeting between sessions and time is of the essence regarding the issue.**
- 5) Parties consent to honor the confidentiality and guidelines of mediation described by the State of Tennessee and outlined in the consent form signed during the initial mediation session.**
- 6) The mediator is a neutral party and generally does not make any decisions; however, in the event both parties agree to ask the mediator to make a decision (on occasion) for them, the decision will be considered a mediated agreement and signed as a contract between the parties.**
- 7) For out of town parents, phone mediation (with all parties on conference call) may be conducted only after an initial session is conducted where both parties are physically present. The out of town parent will initiate the phone call.**

- 8) Any “homework” the parties agree to in mediation will be completed in a timely manner as agreed upon, and considered to be part of the good faith participation in the mediation session. Homework may include reading certain materials, practice of communication skills, and/or other items sent by the mediator or recommended by the parties or mediator. The mediator will work to ensure homework has reasonable time lines.
- 9) The Mediator will forward Mediation Reports to the Courts as often as the Courts request and the parties agree upon. These Mediation Reports will simply state the following:
  - a) Parties’ names, docket number, and other necessary identifying information.
  - b) Whether both parties attended mediation (without telling the Court which party attended and which did not in the event one party fails to attend, thereby leaving the parties to explain to the Court). Attendance is considered being available at/for meetings and completing homework.
  - c) Whether agreements were made in full, part, or not at all.
- 10) Parties agree they will forward any and all signed Memos of Understanding to the Courts.
- 11) **Mediation Fees:** Parties agree to split all mediation fees in a 50/50 manner. The initial session (up to 5-hours) will be a flat rate of \$250 to \$300 each, depending of the providers set fees, and will be paid in full at the time of service. After the initial session, ongoing sessions (1-2hours) will be at the rate of \$60 to \$70 an hour each (depending on provider’s fees) and must be paid prior to the session. These fees will include Memos that are drafted as a courtesy to the parties and all pre and post time the mediator spends out of session.
- 12) In the event either party or the Mediator requests to discontinue mediating services, a meeting with both parties and the Mediator will be set to address the concerns. If at the end of that session the situation is not remedied, the Mediator will refer them to another Reconstructive Co-Parenting mediator so that parties may continue the process without missing a session. If parents change to another Reconstructive Co-Parenting mediator, the court will be notified as such from the first mediator without explanation.

We have read and agree to the above Co-Parenting Mediation guidelines:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date