

## How to access mediation services?

Contact Vilas County Family Court Services to indicate you are requesting mediation services.

Vilas County Family Court Services

330 Court Street

Eagle River, WI 54521

715-479-3638

Mediators

Arlene Langley

Joan LeFebvre

A mediator is someone who has been trained in alternative dispute resolution.

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# Mediation Family Court Services Vilas County

*Mediation helps settle disputes between parents regarding legal custody or periods of physical placement of children.*

## What is Mediation?

Mediation is a voluntary, informal, and confidential process where parties come together with a neutral third party (mediator) to resolve their disputes in a mutually beneficial way. The mediator creates an environment where you can resolve issues in a calm and respectful manner.

Mediation does not place blame or identify the "good" or "bad" parent. It focuses on both parents' future parenting involvement and opportunities. In mediation there is no "winner" or "loser." This aspect of the mediation process is very important for on-going, long-term relationships with your child(ren).

### Possible outcomes from Mediation:

- An agreement is reached. Agreement is signed by both parties and forwarded to the Judge who makes it a court order.
- An agreement is not reached. The case is referred to court. If appropriate, the court will refer the matter for a legal custody or physical placement study. To begin court litigation, a guardian ad litem (GAL) is appointed with a \$500 fee to each parent.

## More about mediation...

**Mediation saves time and money.** A mediation fee of \$100 is assessed to each parent. With mediation, there are no court or attorney fees.

**Mediation sessions are scheduled at times convenient for you.** Mediation sessions may be scheduled during daytime, evenings, or weekends. Mediators will accommodate your schedules whenever possible.

**Mediation gives you more control.** During a mediation session, parties are able to discuss plans and schedules for each parent to have time with their child(ren). You find your own solutions rather than having solutions forced upon you.

**Mediation is a confidential process.** Unless parties consent to waive the privilege, all communication within the mediation session is confidential and cannot be disclosed outside of the mediation session.