

CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION

www.mimmediation.com/child-protection

WHAT IS CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION?

Child Protection Mediation is the process used to resolve issues surrounding a child or children who have been removed from their home due to suspected abuse or neglect.

The ultimate goal is the safety and well-being of the child(ren) and the family being reunited. Your legal rights to due process are protected in mediation even if no agreement is reached.

Anyone involved in a child protection matter may request mediation. Mediation can be used during the court process from the time the original petition is filed until permanency for the child(ren) is achieved.

Any interested person involved in the child protection case that could have helpful input may attend the mediation. This may include parents, children (depending on their age), attorneys, caseworkers, child advocates, foster parents, counselors, family members, and a representative from the Prosecutor's office.



AT A GLANCE

This document was developed to help you understand what you will need to do to make it safe for your children to return home.

You may feel shocked, angry, or confused right now. That is understandable. Now is the time for you to contact reliable friends and family members who can help & support you.

In most cases, the court and your foster care worker will make efforts to return your children to you. You will need to show the court that your children can be safe in your care. It will take time and hard work to correct the problems that brought your child into foster care. Agency staff will help you through this process so you can reach your goals.

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WHAT CAN WE TALK ABOUT?

- Petition Wording
- Visitation plan, schedules, and implementation
- Service plan development
- Placement issues for the child(ren) while the family issues are being resolved
- Parent/Agency agreement
- Transition planning for permanent placement
- Communication and conflict issues that may include:
 - parent/child
 - parent/parent
 - parent/Department of Human Services
 - parent/court
 - attorney/Department of Human Services
 - parent/foster parent
 - sibling/sibling
- Permanent placement for the child(ren)
- Reunification with parent(s)
- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Relative Placement
- Long Term Foster Care



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COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICES

989-732-1576

info@mimmediation.com

114 E Main St #1,
Gaylord, MI 49735

Names & Phone Numbers

FIA Case #:	Court Case #:
CPS Worker's Name/#:	
Foster Care Worker's Name/#:	
Parent Attorney's Name/#:	
Child(ren)'s Attorney's Name/#:	
Family Court/Phone #:	
Other Phone #'s:	
Date of Child(ren)'s Removal:	

Type/Purpose of Hearing	Date	Time	Place	Notes
Preliminary Hearing				
Pre-Trial				
Trial/Adjudication				
Disposition				
91 Day Review				
91 Day Review				
91 Day Review				
Permanency Planning Hearing				

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COURT HEARINGS

Preliminary Hearing - This hearing is held within 24 hours of the removal of your children from your home. The judge or referee will advise you of the allegations against you in the petition filed by CPS. If you deny the allegations, your case will proceed to a trial.

Pre-Trial Hearing - At this hearing, the attorneys will give the court their list of people who may testify for or against you at the trial. A date for the trial is usually set at this time.

Adjudication Hearing - An adjudication hearing must occur no later than 63 days after your children were removed from your care. At the conclusion of the trial, the court will decide whether the child(ren) should stay in foster care or should be returned to your care.

Dispositional Hearing - This hearing must occur within 35 days of the adjudication hearing. At this hearing, the court will order the actions that you and the agency must take so that your child(ren) can return home safely. These actions are outlined in a Parent-Agency Treatment Plan and Service Agreement. In certain cases, the agency may seek termination of parental rights at the beginning of your case. If so, termination of your parental rights may occur at this hearing.

Review Hearing - These take place at least every 91 days after the dispositional hearing for as long as your children remain in care. The court will review your progress.

Permanency Planning Hearing - This hearing must occur no later than 365 days after your child(ren) were removed from your care. This hearing is to decide whether to return your children home, continue foster care, or begin the process to terminate your parental rights.

Termination Hearing - The court will consider your child(ren)'s best interest when deciding whether or not to terminate your rights.

Voluntary Release - You may decide to voluntarily give up your parental rights at any time during the case. If you do so, a full termination trial will not be held. You should consider all options with your attorney and foster care worker before making a decision.

KEY PEOPLE INVOLVED:

Children's Protective Services (CPS) Worker - the person who investigated a report of abuse &/or neglect. The worker decided that your children were not safe and asked the court for an order to remove your children from your care.

Foster Care Worker - the person from either the FIA (Family Independence Agency) or private foster-care agency who is assigned to your case. This person will work with you and your children. They will make recommendations to the court about the case plan and needed services.

Judge or Referee - the person who conducts court hearings related to your case. At each hearing, the judge or referee will listen to the information and evidence presented and make decisions about your children.

Attorney - the person who represents you at each court hearing. If you have legal questions about your case, call your attorney.

Prosecutor/Assistant Attorney General - an attorney who represents the State and/or FIA at court hearings.

Child(ren)'s Attorney - the person who represents your child(ren)'s best interests. Your child(ren)'s attorney is called a Lawyer-Guardian ad Litem (L-GAL).

Foster Parents - people licensed by the State of MI to take care of your child(ren) while they are out of your care.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) - a trained volunteer who makes recommendations to the court about your child(ren)'s best interests. The CASA may spend time with your child(ren) and tell the court how your child(ren) are doing and what they need.

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