

- **Guardian ad Litem (GAL):** a specially trained professional neutral third party appointed to gather and report information to help the Court determine the child's best interest.

Where can I learn more about FCR's services?

For more details about the services offered by FCR and how to access them, please see the brochures for each individual service or visit our website at medinadr.org.

Dedicated to serving the families and children of Medina County



Contact Us

Phone: (330)725-9740

Web: Medinadr.org

NOTICE

This pamphlet was created to help you understand your options but NOT to advise you about the law.



Judge Julie A. Schafer
Medina County
Domestic Relations Court
99 Public Square
Medina, OH 44256

Family Court Resources



Medina County Domestic Relations Court

An Overview of Services



The *Family Court Resources* (FCR) department of Medina County Domestic Relations Court provides & oversees a host of dispute-resolution alternatives and robust services to assist families who are dealing with conflict and require the court's help.

What is the purpose of the FCR department?

Family Court Resources' mission is to collect, assess, and report information to the Court for case evaluation and to provide effective child-centered services to individuals and families to assist in conflict resolution and skill development.

What services does FCR offer and/or oversee?

- **Intake / Consultation:** FCR can assist parents who are having difficulty with their current orders / parenting time arrangements. Either parent may contact us to schedule an informal voluntary proceeding to clarify court ordered schedules, resolve conflicts, and address concerns.

- **Families of Children United in Support (FOCUS):** offered twice per month, this class educates parents about the impact of parental conflict on children, specific skills for co-parenting, communication, and conflict resolution.
- **Mediation:** a confidential process facilitated by a highly trained neutral third party to help the parents reach a voluntary win/win agreement. Issues are discussed and possible solutions explored for resolution. The mediator guides the conversation but does not make any decisions or provide legal advice. The court provides parenting and financial mediation pre and post decree.
- **Co-parent Coaching & Assessment (CPC):** a social worker / counselor works with co-parenting couples to address issues, assess their strengths & needs, and develop & enhance coping and communication skills.
- **Neutral Evaluation (NE):** a process wherein a magistrate and social worker / other professional hear the case background and provide the parties with an unbiased evaluation of the likely outcome if the case proceeds to trial, which can assist the parties in assessing their case and may propel them towards settlement.
- **Custody Evaluation:** a court-ordered mental health professional conducts interviews & clinical observations, reviews & analyzes relevant data, and provides written recommendations to the court regarding parenting / custody matters in the child's best interest.
- **Parenting Coordination (PC):** is a child-focused dispute resolution process, wherein an impartial third-party professional, called a Parenting Coordinator (PC), helps the parties resolve conflicts and implement and follow their parenting order.

