## What if one party does not want to participate in mediation?

Mediation is voluntary, so all parties must agree to participate before mediation can go forward. Either party may terminate the process at any time for any reason.

#### What issues can we mediate?

- Property Division
- Child & Spousal Support
- Child Custody
- Parenting Time / Exchanges
- Decision Making
- Contempt / Compliance with Court Orders
- School Choice
- Child Care
- Medical / Educational Issues

# Dedicated to serving the families and children of Medina County



Contact Us
Phone: (330)725-9740
Web: Medinadr.org

### **Mediation**



Medina County Domestic
Relations Court
Family Court Resources



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



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



Medina County Domestic Relations Court strives to help families to resolve their disagreements about children, finances, and property, which can often be accomplished through *Mediation*.

## What is mediation and how does it work?

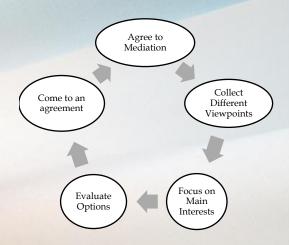
Mediation is facilitated by a highly trained neutral third party, who guides and assists the parties in resolving their differences by helping them discuss the issues in a nonadversarial environment, identify their interests, brainstorm possible solutions, and negotiate a win/win agreement.

The Court may refer the parties to mediation to assist them with settling their case without the need for litigation. Parties are allowed but not required to have their attorneys present / available during the mediation sessions.

Mediation is privileged and confidential, so anything discussed will not be disclosed to anyone and is not filed in a public record.

#### What is the cost of mediation?

The court offers mediation at no cost to parties who have an active or existing case with the Medina County Domestic Relations Court.



## Why might mediation be a good option for me?

Mediation allows the parties an opportunity to:

- Resolve disputes without the hassles of going to trial.
- Actively participate in solving their own conflicts.
- Spend less money and time at court.
- Maintain privacy by avoiding testimony or evidence that could be viewed in a public record.
- Determine what are the best solutions for their own family / situation.
- Reach a win/win agreement that will be less likely to result in future litigation / disputes.

## What happens after reaching an agreement in mediation?

The mediator will prepare a written memorandum to be presented to your attorney. If you don't have an attorney, then you may submit an Agreed Judgment Entry (AJE), incorporating the mediation agreement. Once the AJE is reviewed and signed by the judge, it will become an Order of the Court.

## What happens if we do not reach an agreement?

If you are unable to come to agreement, then the matter will be set for a hearing. The Court will then be the deciding factor of the disputes that weren't agreed upon in mediation.

#### How do I request mediation?

Requests can be made by completing the Mediation Request Form found on the Court's website, medinadr.org., and submitting it to the Domestic Relations Clerk of Court, or via email at mcccdrefiling@medinaco.org.