
Child custody and visitation mediation programs are available in the following courts:

Anchorage

Bethel

Dillingham

Fairbanks

Homer

Juneau

Kenai

Ketchikan

Kodiak

Palmer

Sitka

Child Custody And Visitation Mediation Program

Helping Parents Resolve
Custody
And Visitation Disputes

For more information about this publication, please call the
Alaska Court System Administrative Office at
(907) 264-8240
820 West Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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The **Alaska Court System** is pleased to offer mediation services for parents who have a divorce, dissolution, child custody, or visitation case pending in court, or who want to modify an existing court order or decree.

Mediation is a voluntary, cooperative, confidential problem-solving process that is often useful for resolving custody or visitation problems and creating co-parenting agreements.

In this program, experienced mediators assist parents to work out agreements acceptable to both parents. Parents maintain control of the decisions throughout the process. The parenting plan that is developed usually becomes part of the divorce, dissolution, or custody agreement.

Mediation is confidential. Neither the mediator nor the parents may disclose to the court what is discussed in mediation. Only your agreements may be shared with the court.

Parents with a combined net annual income of \$100,000 or less are eligible for this program. In most cases, the court system will pay the full cost of mediation on custody, visitation and other parenting issues.

When domestic violence is an issue, the safety of the victim is essential. This program is not available if a domestic violence restraining order is in effect. If you are concerned about violence, or abusive or controlling behavior, request a private session with the mediator. The mediators are trained in domestic violence issues and will help you decide whether you can participate safely and effectively.

Please consider mediation as an option. In many cases mediation holds the potential for a win/win solution for parents and for children.

If you wish to participate in this program, you or your attorney can obtain a form to request mediation from your court or on the court website at: www.courtrecords.alaska.gov/webdocs/forms/dr-405.pdf

If you are not eligible for this program, but want to consider mediation, contact the Court System's Family Case Services Coordinator at 907-264-8236 for more information about mediation resources in your community. Please note that in Alaska anyone can act as a mediator.

There are no state standards or licensing requirements. Mediator education, training, experience and style vary. It is up to the people involved to decide what they need in a mediator and to be sure that the mediator they choose has the necessary skills and approach. To help parties choose a qualified mediator, the Alaska Judicial Council publishes a free guide to selecting a qualified mediator: [Consumer Guide to Selecting a Mediator \(www.ajc.state.ak.us/reports/MediatorGuide.pdf\)](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us/reports/MediatorGuide.pdf).