

## Notice of Mediation Services for Parents

### What is Mediation

Mediation brings people together to solve problems. Mediators help people talk about their differences and find answers to resolve their case. The mediator is a neutral person who helps you have conversations and try to find agreements but is not the final decision-maker or judge. Mediators meet with both parents together or separately in a comfortable setting. Unlike court, mediation is private. The goal is to achieve win-win agreements to meet your family's needs.

### What are the Advantages of Mediation?

- Together, you and your co-parent, not a judge, develop solutions.
- Agreements are tailored for each family.
- Flexibility that may not be available through the Court.
- Mediation is less expensive.
- Mediation is confidential.
- Mediators do not take sides.
- Your case may get resolved quicker.
- You can still go to court if you cannot reach an agreement.
- Protect your family from ongoing court battles and continued conflict.

### Selecting a Mediator

Parents may select a mediator from the Family Court of St. Louis County's Approved Mediator List. These mediators have certified that they meet the qualifications set forth by the Family Court of St. Louis County for mediating all relevant issues raised in a dissolution petition, paternity action, or motion to modify; these include property, financial arrangements, child custody and related parenting issues. Each mediator sets his/her own fees. To learn more about fees, contact the mediator directly. If you would like to obtain a List of Court Approved Mediators, visit the Court's website at: [www.stlcourtscourts.com/attorneys/mediator-list-for-family-court1/](http://www.stlcourtscourts.com/attorneys/mediator-list-for-family-court1/)  
***The Family Court takes no position as to the relative skills of any individual listed as a Court Approved Mediator nor does the Court take any responsibility for the services provided by such individuals.***

### Free Mediation Services

MARCH Mediation offers up to four (4) hours of free, confidential mediation services to parents to develop parenting plans or resolve child support issues for use in dissolution, paternity or adult abuse proceedings. MARCH Mediation can be reached at 1-800-595-9750 or [www.MARCHMediation.org](http://www.MARCHMediation.org).

### Local Rule 68.14: Mediation

The Court encourages parents to use mediation to resolve their disputes and requires that parents complete at least two (2) hours of mediation when there is no agreement on custody or visitation and financial issues. Parents may select a mediator of their choice from the Family Court's Approved Mediator List to participate in confidential mediation or the Court may order parents to mediate confidentially with a mediator from the same list. Lastly, the Court can order the parents to Domestic Relations Service for custody plan development (which is not confidential).