

MEDIATION

When custody or placement is disputed, the parties will be referred to mediation with a qualified mediator to attempt to reach an agreement.

Either or both parties can request a referral to mediation by completing the mediation referral form at the Clerk of Court's Office and forwarding it to the Family Court Commissioner. If a mediator is appointed in your case, the mediator will contact you with the time and place of the session. Under Court Rule, if a mediator is appointed you are required to cooperate in the mediation sessions.

Jackson County pays for the first mediation session in a case. If further mediation is appropriate, each party is required to make a deposit with the Clerk of Court's Office against further mediation fees. Even though a fee is required for further mediation, it is often less expensive than litigating the issues in court and may lead to a more satisfying resolution for all parties.

If both parties agree, the commissioner will refer the parties to mediation on issues other than custody and placement provided the mediator accepts the case. The county does not pay for these mediations, but the parties usually agree to split the cost.

[Referral for Mediation Form](#)