



# Family Mediation Topics

*Below are some items that families may discuss in mediation, this is not a complete list and not all families will discuss every issue listed below.*

## Time with the Children

- Day-to-day schedule
- Holidays or other special days
- Summer / Winter / Spring breaks
- Vacation plans
- Extended family involvement
- Telephone contact with children
- Parental behavior standards
- Relocation / Moving
- Making changes to the schedule
- Defining Physical Custody\*

*\*Physical custody refers to where the children live and who is taking care of their day-to-day physical needs and can be defined as either Primary Physical Custody where one parent has more of the responsibility of the day-to-day or Joint Physical Custody where that responsibility is shared.*

## Decision Making & Communication for the Children

- Medical treatment & emergencies
- Educational plans or approach
- Childcare plans
- Extracurricular activities
- Approach to discipline
- Religious involvement
- Travel plans
- Communication standards as parents
- Health risks and exposure
- Define Legal Custody\*

*\*Legal Custody refers to who has the authority to make decisions about the life of the children regarding medical, educational, religious, and extracurricular activities and other significant issues and can be defined as either Sole Legal Custody or Joint Legal Custody.*

## Financial Support and Expenses

- Payment amount, method, and date
- Tracking payments
- Special expenses or needs
- Health insurance
- Unreimbursed medical expenses
- Life insurance beneficiaries
- Tax exemptions
- Vocational / college expenses
- Spousal Support

*The following information is required in order to discuss child support:*

- *Gross income of each parent.*
- *Cost of healthcare coverage, separated for children portion only.*
- *Employment-related child care expenses.*
- *Social Security numbers and DOB for all Parents and Children*