

You've been assigned to mediation, now what?

- 1. Watch** the Clatsop County Domestic Relations Mediation Orientation Video:
 - Go to the Clatsop County website at:
www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/clatsop
 - On the left side of the screen, in the light blue bar, is the Self-Help Section. Click on Videos.
 - Click on the play button for the Domestic Relations Mediation video. Plan on 20 minutes to view the video.
- 2. Read** this packet's information about mediation and the mediator bios.
- 3. Complete and return** the forms that came with this packet. Return them to the courthouse or talk to your attorney about how to return them:
 - Declaration of Completion of Domestic Relations Mediation Orientation
 - Notice of Selection of Domestic Relations Mediator
 - Current Parenting Time Arrangement
- 4. While** you wait to be assigned your mediator:
 - **Review** the information and resources in this packet.
 - **Start** the exercises on the Up to Parents website.
 - **Sign up** and take your Parent Education class.

What is Mediation?

Mediation is related to custody, decision making and parenting time.

Mediation is confidential and balanced.

- The mediator won't share information about what happens in mediation, except that the mediator may be a mandated reporter and thus required to report child or elder abuse.
- The mediator doesn't make decisions. With their help, they give you and the other parent a chance to reach an agreement.

What to expect:

- The mediator will send you some information and forms to complete
- You and the other party will meet with the mediator and
 - Set goals and build an agenda
 - Brainstorm and share proposals
- If you agree, the mediator will draft your agreement for you to review.

How much does it cost?

- Clatsop County provides up to three hours of time at no cost. If you need more time, you may pay on your own.

Preparing for Mediation

As a parent involved in a divorce, legal separation or are an unmarried parent filing for custody/parenting time, the Clatsop County Circuit Court encourages you to access this free website prior to attending mediation:

- **www.uptoparents.org**
- Doing the exercises on this website will help you *and* your children.
- This website also has videos and articles to inspire and help you.
- Let your mediator know you are using this website and bring samples and ideas you come up with to mediation.

Remember to attend a court approved parent education class (additional information included with this packet) and file your certificate of completion with the Court.

Important Notice for Parties with Children

If your Clatsop County Domestic Relations Case involves: **Child Custody, Parenting Time, or Visitation**, you must attend an approved Parent Education Class and provide proof to the Court.

- The Parent Education Class provides an excellent opportunity to focus on the needs of your child now and after your court case is over.
- Clatsop County Circuit Court has three approved online options. If there are multiple classes available, take the 4-hour class.
- **Approved Online Parent Education Classes:**
<https://online.divorce-education.com>
<https://www.pricelessparenting.com>
<https://www.onlineparentclass.com/Co-Parenting-Classes.aspx>
- If you have any questions or concerns about this court requirement, please call 503-325-8555 and select option 6.

Clatsop County Domestic Relations Mediator Biographies

Alex Tillson

I have been a domestic relations mediator since October of 2015. Since then, I have mediated many hundreds of cases, with a goal of helping the parties work together and stay out of court. Domestic relations mediation is a private, confidential process in which I am able to be the impartial aide to getting unique solutions.

In addition to my role as a mediator, I have a Master's in Psychology, I am a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (with full licensure expected March 2024), and I perform court-appointed custody and parenting time evaluations throughout Oregon.

I have extensive experience working with parents and families to find solutions that meet their needs and that they can feel good signing off on, and I very much enjoy working with parents and families to help make sure that the focus can remain on their children in what is often a very difficult and contentious process.

Alexandra Dezurick

Since 2009 I have been on the panel of mediators for Hood River County Circuit Court Hood River. I work with parents in mediation assisting them in reaching a parenting plan “which is in the best interest of the children.” After passing the California Bar in 1995, I opened “Coming to Terms Mediation” where I mediated divorces, parent/child conflicts, neighborhood disputes and a variety of other conflicts. I have found that child custody mediation is such a valuable platform where parents are working together for the benefit of the child/children. One of my goals in mediation is to keep a calm atmosphere where parents feel comfortable to express their concerns without fear. Facilitating constructive communication between the parents, clarifying concerns of the parents, and ultimately arriving at a parenting plan is what drives my passion in this specialty. Oregon has been my home for the past 20 years. Helping Oregon children and their families improve their situation is my priority. I have found mediation to be very effective process in child custody disputes.

Christopher Jones

I am a seasoned mediator, having obtained both a J.D. and a Master Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University in 2005 on top of a bachelor's degree in both psychology and economics. I bring a creative, peaceful and optimistic approach to resolving disputes early and as least painfully as possible for all involved.

I have 19 years of experience in business, construction, manufacturing and family law. This work included both major law firms and resolving business disputes for construction companies, Kia Motors and Mitsubishi Electric. In addition, I conduct mediations for domestic matters working closely with families in Oregon, Georgia and California.

My goal is to serve this Court and residents of Clatsop County by helping families reach creative and early resolution of disputes and that best meet the needs of children and spouses.

Diana Taylor

I have been a mediator since 1997. In November, 2016, I was delighted to join the Clatsop County domestic Relations Mediation Panel. Dispute resolution is my passion, not a hobby. I am very proud of the effective, professional mediation practice that I have established and am excited to help the residents of Clatsop County build stronger families. I have extensive experience in dispute resolution as an attorney, mediator, arbitrator, Municipal Court Judge, and Justice of the Peace pro tem. I am known for being fair and objective, as well as creative and able to “think outside the box” while helping

folks resolve issues. I have served on the Columbia County Domestic Relations Mediation panel since my appointment in 2003 and have assisted hundreds of families with developing parenting plans that meet their children's needs.

I have had so many parents tell me that mediation has helped them establish a new relationship with the other parent, which includes productive conversations regarding their children, much less stress, and most importantly, happier children who are not torn between the parents. Let's work on the issues together in a safe, confidential, effective way.

Eydie Aragon

After twenty-three years of working as a Marriage and Family Therapist, I began my work as mediator. I earned my B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and my M.S. in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family therapy from California State University, Sacramento. In 2017, my training and experience as a Domestic Relations and Financial Family Law Mediator began with Clackamas County Resolution Services.

As a therapist, I have worked with a broad range of children and families in various settings since 1996. As a Family Law Mediator, I seek to listen and understand my clients so that I can assist them to achieve agreements and arrive at solutions that they feel good about. In my practice, I strive to help families improve their communication and to develop parenting plans that serve the best interests of their children.

Kathryn Fahrion

I began mediating in 2017 while pursuing my graduate degrees in Law and Conflict Dispute Resolution. I have mediated hundreds of court-connected cases with Lane County Family Mediation and volunteered for several years doing small claims mediation. My private practice includes a wide range of dispute resolution, conflict coaching, and mediation education services, and I am teaching Family Mediation for the University of Oregon Law school beginning in 2024. Helping people find collaborative solutions to move forward and helping others develop the skills for resolving their disputes is one of the most rewarding parts of my life, and I'm excited to use those skills to support Clatsop County families. When I'm not working, I enjoy my garden, cooking a great meal, and seeing more of the hidden pleasures Oregon has to offer.

Robin Stedfeld

I have been a mediator in private practice since 2012, working primarily with parenting time and child custody. I am a court-connected Domestic Relations mediator with over four Circuit Court jurisdictions in Oregon, and have mediated in over 650 court-connected cases. I am active on local Family Law Advisory Committees, participate on a sub-committee with the State Family Law Advisory Committee, and am also a member of the Oregon Mediation Association, the Association for Conflict Resolution, and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. I have a strong commitment to empowering parents through the mediation process. I believe that parents who develop their own parenting plan are taking an important first step toward peaceful co-parenting.

Stefyni Allen

I have been in the Oregon family law community since 2007. I started my practice as a family law attorney in 2013 but found a passion for mediation and took the time afforded by Covid to make the transition to full time custody and parenting time mediation in 2021. I fully believe where there is a will there's a way, and I will diligently work with you to find the way that works best for your family.

Reference Books

Reference Books for Adults:

Adler, Allan and Archambault, Christine; *Divorce Recovery*

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts; *Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children* (a pamphlet which can be ordered online from Association of Family and Conciliation Courts)

Cohen, M.G.; *Long Distance Parenting: A Guide for Divorced Parents*

Galper, Miriam; *Joint Custody & Co-Parenting*

Kalter, Neil; Growing Up with Divorce - *Helping Your Child Avoid Immediate and Later Emotional Problems*

Teyber, Edward; *Helping Children Cope with Divorce*

Ware, Ciji; *Sharing Parenthood After Divorce*

Reference Books for Children and Adolescents:

Blume, Judy; *It's Not the End of the World*

Gardner, Richard A.; *The Boys and Girls Book About Divorce*

Gardner, Richard A.; *The Boys and Girls Book About One-Parent Families*

Perry, Patricia and Lynch, Marietta; *Mommy and Daddy are Divorced*

Rofes, Eric; *The Kids Book of Divorce*

Rogers, Fred and O'Brien, Clair; *Mr. Rogers Talks with Families About Divorce*

Picture Books for Children:

Girard, Linda; *At Daddy's On Saturdays*

Goff, Beth; *Where is Daddy? - The Story of Divorce*

Schuman, Joan; *Two Place to Sleep*

Stinson, Kathy; *Mom and Dad Don't Live Together Anymore*