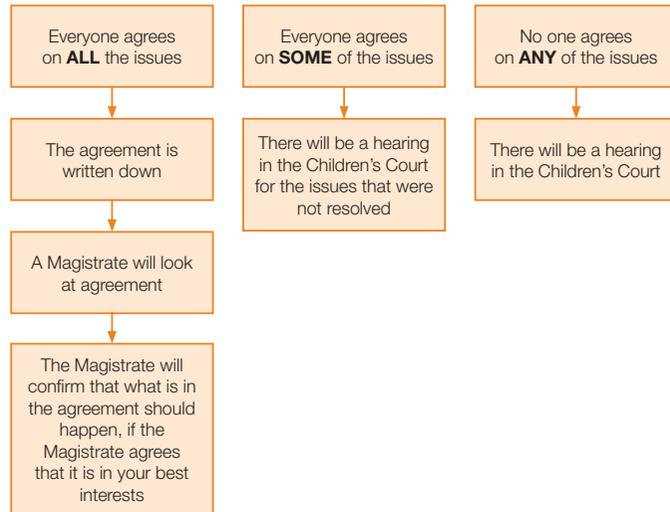


What will happen at the end of the mediation?



Questions?

If you have any questions about mediation, please talk to your lawyer.

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Going to mediation

Information for children and young people





What is mediation?

Mediation is a meeting between you, your parents, Community Services, and your lawyer.

It is a chance to talk about the different issues in your family, and your future.

What is the point of mediation?

The point of mediation is for everyone to sit down and come to an agreement about how to look after you, without the Court needing to make a decision on its own.

Who can come to mediation?

If you would like to come to mediation, then talk to your lawyer about this.

You do not have to come if you would rather not.

The people who will be at the mediation are:

- Your lawyer
- Your parents
- Your parents' lawyers, if they have lawyers
- Your Community Services caseworker and their casework manager
- A lawyer for Community Services
- The mediator.

If you would like to go, you can bring a support person (such as a youth worker) with you.

Who will run the mediation?

An independent person will run the mediation. They are called the mediator.

They are not there to make decisions about you, or your case.

They will help everyone to talk about the important issues around your care.

Should I go to mediation?

If you would like to go to mediation, then talk to your lawyer beforehand. They will help you decide whether it is the best thing for you.

If you decide not to go, you can still talk to your lawyer about what you want them to say on your behalf.



What will happen at the mediation?

There will be times for group discussion, and times to talk with your lawyer or think by yourself.

You can take a break at any time.

Mediation is very different to going to Court. It is informal, and everyone sits around a table.

In Court, your lawyer will speak for you.

In mediation, you have the opportunity to ask and answer questions, although your lawyer will still be there with you.

Do I need to prepare anything for mediation?

Before you go, it is useful to think about some of the things that you want to talk about.

Talk these ideas through with your lawyer beforehand.

Some things to think about are:

- What are some of the issues that need to be sorted out in your family?
- What are some different options for your care in the future?

These could be things such as living with a relative for a little while, or how often you see certain people that are important to you.

- How do you feel about these different options?
- Is there one that you prefer?



Is mediation confidential?

Yes. Everything that is discussed at the mediation is confidential.

This means that nothing that anyone says during the mediation can be used in a Court hearing.

There are some exceptions to this rule. The mediator will explain these exceptions at the beginning of the mediation.