

Why mediation?

When parents find themselves sharing a child between two homes the challenges and emotions that occur often result in conflict between the parents. How parents deal with conflict has a profound influence on children. Mediation is one way for parents to resolve these conflicts in a way that allows children to have positive relationships with both parents.

Who are the mediators?

Our mediators are trained, experienced mediators approved by the Kansas Supreme Court. They have been selected because of their extensive experience with domestic and family issues.

Mission

The mission of RG Domestic Mediation Services is to provide children with the opportunity to develop and maintain positive relationships with each of their parents through the development of a mutually acceptable plan for parenting.

RG Domestic Mediation Services

for the
21st and 8th Judicial Districts

Riley County Courthouse
100 Courthouse Plaza
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-6364

Geary County Courthouse
138 East 8th Street
Junction City, KS 66441
(785) 762-5221



To schedule mediation, contact:
(785) 370-5162



What is mediation?

Mediation is a way for parents who disagree to discuss their problems with the help of a third party who will not take sides. The parents, and not the mediator, make the decisions on what is best for their children. The mediator assists the parents by helping define the issues, clarify difficult communications, and helps the parties develop possible alternatives or solutions.

Mediation...

- ◆ Can be quicker and cost less than going to court where a judge determines the outcome.
- ◆ Promotes creative solutions specific to your children's needs.
- ◆ Considers challenges parents face and works to find solutions everyone can live with.

How much time does it take?

Each parent will meet with the mediator for one hour to define the issues and then both parents together will meet with the mediator for a two hour session to address the parents' concerns. Additional sessions may be scheduled as needed.

How much does it cost?

The cost of mediation services is determined on an hourly basis according to your income. (This payment schedule stands, regardless of prior court orders to equally share costs.) Your annual income is determined by either a recent pay stub you provide or your most recent child support worksheet filed with the clerk of court. You must pay for services *prior* to the start of each session.

Fee Schedule

HOUSE-HOLD GROSS INCOME	TOTAL FEE FOR INITIAL THREE HOURS* OF MEDIATION & ONE HOUR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PER PERSON	FEE PER HOUR PER INDIVIDUAL AFTER COMPLETION OF INITIAL THREE HOURS
Under \$10,000	\$80	\$20
\$10,001-\$15,000	\$100	\$25
\$15,001-\$20,000	\$120	\$30
\$20,001-\$25,000	\$140	\$35
\$25,001-\$30,000	\$160	\$40
\$30,001-\$35,000	\$180	\$45
\$35,001-\$40,000	\$220	\$55
\$40,001-\$50,000	\$280	\$70
Over \$50,001	\$400	\$100

* One hour for an individual session, plus two-hours for the first joint session.

Administrative fees cover scheduling, writing drafts and final agreements, and all documentation/reports for court-ordered cases.

Is Mediation mandatory?

The policy of the 21st Judicial District provides that parties to a newly filed contested divorce or paternity action case involving issues of child custody, parenting schedules, and/or parenting rights must attempt to settle the issues through mediation prior to setting the case for final hearing. The court will not set a divorce, annulment, separate maintenance action, or post paternity proceeding involving minor children of the relationship for final hearing until the parents have complied with this rule. Cases in the 8th Judicial District may also be court-ordered to mediation. The parties may elect to choose either (1) a mutually agreed upon specific private mediator, or (2) a mediator from RG Domestic Mediation Services can be assigned.

Local court policy provides parties in post-divorce cases involving issues other than enforcing parenting time are subject to the mandatory mediation requirements. Parents with issues concerning enforcement of parenting time in a post-divorce proceeding may agree to mediate those issues.

If the parties choose to use RG Domestic Mediation Services, the court will direct them to the program in order to be assigned a mediator (contact info on front cover). Each parent must contact the mediation coordinator within five business days of the court's order.

What can I expect from mediation?

During mediation, the mediator guides communication and insures everyone is heard. Issues are discussed one at a time, solutions explored, and negotiated. The mediator controls the process, but the parties control the content. At the end of a successful mediation parents will have a written agreement on how they will co-parent their child(ren). Once the Memorandum of Understanding is signed by both parents and approved by the judge it becomes binding. Parents are encouraged to submit the agreements to their attorneys for review. If parents do not have attorneys, the mediator will explain how to submit the agreement to the court.