

Family Court Services  
Tehama County Courts

---

P.O. Box 810  
Tehama County Courthouse, Rm 13  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
530-528-7608  
Fax: 530-527-0984

INFORMATION REGARDING MEDIATION

You have been referred to Family Court Services for mediation of your child custody or visitation dispute. You will be required to attend Parent Orientation if you have not already done so in the previous two years. This is held every Monday from 3:30-4:30, on the second floor of the old courthouse building. You will receive a packet of Frequently Asked Questions and a sample parenting plan form to help prepare you to work together in mediation.

Before or after Parent Orientation, (usually same day as court) go downstairs to room 13 to schedule an appointment for the parents to meet with the court mediator. The mediation session is scheduled for one and a half hours but may take longer, depending on the circumstances.

This conference is for parents only. You may be requested to bring in any children over the age of five that the mediator deems necessary in order to resolve the conflicts or issues. This will be decided at the time of the parental conference if not before. Please do not bring young children with you unless another person is also present to supervise these children.

Mediation is:

1. An attempt to resolve your disputes and to draw up a shared-parenting agreement that is agreeable with both of you.
2. If that does not occur, the mediator may make a recommendation to the Court suggesting how your children should be shared or how your dispute should be settled.
3. It may be necessary to conduct a full evaluation if mediation is not successful. That will be discussed with you during the mediation conference.

Family Court Services  
Tehama County Courts

---

P.O. Box 810  
Tehama County Courthouse, Rm 13  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
530-528-7608  
Fax: 530-527-0984

State law requires parents to meet with the court mediator in an attempt to resolve their differences before there is a court hearing on the issues of custody and/or visitation.

You are now being asked to meet with a Tehama County Family Court mediator concerning these issues.

The California legislature has stated: "That it is the public policy of this State to insure minor children of frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage and to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing in order to effect the policy."

The law also states that preference in custody will be given to the parent most willing to allow frequent contact between the child and the other parent.

Mediation focuses on the future and builds on the positive qualities of each parent. It is a forum of cooperation. On the other hand, litigation focuses on evidence of wrongs of the past. It is expensive, time-consuming, and emotionally draining. Often, things are said in court which are never forgotten. Court proceedings may produce more hostility and less cooperation between parents than existed before. Rarely is this productive or good for your child/ren.

Since you are the parents, it is more appropriate for you, rather than the Court, to determine how you will share your child. Mediation can establish your parental rights and responsibilities in a self-determined and constructive manner. It will be an advantage for your child because it will provide him or her the security of knowing that both of you, despite the dissolution of your marriage, are still actively involved and loving parents.

## FAMILY COURT SERVICES INTAKE

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **NEXT COURT DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Other names used \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name and ages of other people (outside the children involved in this case) that reside in your household?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DATA:**

Highest Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Age left School \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your income from: (circle one) Job AFDC/Cal-Works Unemployment SSI Disability  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Salary per Month \_\_\_\_\_  
 Present or Last Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Work \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Employment Began \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Ended \_\_\_\_\_ Reason Ended \_\_\_\_\_

**ARREST HISTORY: (if applicable)**

Arrest date: \_\_\_\_\_ Probation Officer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Charges filed for: \_\_\_\_\_ Conviction for:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**DRUG/ALCOHOL HISTORY:**

Alcohol/Drug of choice \_\_\_\_\_ last used: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of sponsor, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**MARTIAL HISTORY:**

Present Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Present Marriage: Intact  Dissolution Pending  Date separated \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Marriages (Name)	Date & Place	How Terminated	Date Separated	Date Final
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Legal name of ALL your children	Age	Date of Birth	Who holds custody
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Name and phone number of childcare providers, if any:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Court Services  
Tehama County Courts

---

P.O. Box 810  
Tehama County Courthouse, Rm 13  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
530-528-7608  
Fax: 530-527-0984

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROVISIONS

**SEPARATE SESSIONS:** Parties referred to mediation under Family Code Section 3181 shall be allowed separate sessions upon request when there has been domestic violence between the parties as domestic violence is defined in Family Code Section 6203 and 6211 and where an order is in effect pursuant to Family Code Section 6218(a) and (c). These sessions shall be at separate times without notice to the parties of the other's appointment times.

If you are eligible and if this is the option you choose, your case will mostly likely proceed on to court hearing whereby your joint parental decision making will be taken from you. **IF YOU CHOOSE THIS OPTION, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE FOR A SEPARATE APPOINTMENT FOR YOURSELF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**SUPPORT PERSON:** A second choice for parties meeting the requirements of the domestic violence code is to have a support person present during mediation. (Family Code Section 6303). Support people are bound by the laws of confidentiality. They are not allowed to give legal advice or to participate in any way in mediation sessions. They are present as moral support only. If your support person is disruptive, they will be asked to leave. The mediator has the authority to exclude a domestic violence support person (Family code Section 3182(b) and 6303(c).

You may choose to have your support person be someone other than a relative or anyone emotionally involved in the case since they tend to violate these rules. You may want to contact Alternatives to Violence at 527-0226 or Maggie Michael at 528-4141 and have a volunteer support person come with you.

**REGULAR SESSION:** You may also choose neither option and proceed through mediation as most parents do. This provides you with an opportunity to hear the proposal from the other parent, and to respond. It also gives the other parent an opportunity to hear your proposal. You will be talking to the mediator, not each other. After hearing and understanding the proposals of each parent, the mediator will assist you in exploring options to consider. This is the most beneficial format to allow you to come up with an agreed upon custody and visitation plan.

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THEE OPTIONS, DATE AND SIGN YOUR NAME.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Session

\_\_\_\_\_ Support Person

\_\_\_\_\_ Separate Session

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

FAMILY COURT SERVICES  
Tehama County Courts  
P.O. Box 810  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
530-528-7608  
Fax 530-527-0984

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

In re the matter of: \_\_\_\_\_ Court Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner Respondent

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby authorize Family Court Services  
(Your name)

to obtain any and all information on myself in the investigation. This authorization for Release of Information may be presented to any agency or person Family Court Services so chooses, including but not limited to: county welfare departments, children's protective services, probation departments, county crisis centers, county mental health departments, (including Tehama County Health Services Agency), law enforcement agencies, psychiatrists or psychologists or counselors, medical personnel, dentists, school authorities or teachers, childcare providers, ministers, and friends or relatives. This form also authorizes release of any drug/alcohol test results.

This release hereby authorizes Family Court Services, its offices and its agents, to exchange any and all information on me and my child (ren) in order to allow Family Court Services to reasonably recommend to the court on the issues currently before the Tehama County Superior Court.

I acknowledge that Family Court Services, and its officers and agents cannot prevent the parties or their attorneys from disclosing the information referred, attached, or contained in said investigative report to persons not authorized to receive said information and hereby releases Family Court Services, it officers and agents, from any liability therefore.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

(A photocopy or duplicate of this release shall for all intents and purposes be deemed and original. This release will expire one year after signing.)