

The JDMP Process

Juvenile Dependency
Mediation Program



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Pre-Mediation

- Mediators review the case and reach out to participants with a confidential email or telephone call to gain a better understanding of the nature of the case; possible areas for conversation and/or concerns; the presence of domestic violence and its impact on the mediation; and any accessibility issues
- In termination of parental rights cases, mediators also reach out to prospective adoptive parents to orient them to the mediation process

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Mediation

- Mediators conduct a pre-mediation orientation with parents and their attorneys for the first 15-20 minutes of the mediation
- After orientation, mediation generally starts in joint session unless otherwise indicated by the mediator, with all of the participants together in the same room (either virtual or in-person)
- The goal of mediation is to encourage open communication and to shift the tone of the case to one of collaboration, rather than adversity
- Mediators help participants explore ways they can work together towards the best interests of the child(ren)
- There are opportunities for breaks and separate conversations between participants and their legal counsel

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Post-Mediation

- Following each mediation, participants are provided links to surveys to share their experience and comments, allowing JDMP to improve upon its services
- Surveys are anonymous and go to the JDMP program staff
- JDMP tracks mediation statistics, including agreement rates, party demographics, etc.

**OVER
2,000
CHILDREN
ASSISTED**

**OVER 1,000
COURT
HEARINGS
ELIMINATED**