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Part One

Mediation Overview

Introduction to Mediation

- Mediation is required whenever there is a dispute about child custody or visitation
- Mediation focuses on developing an agreement between parents that is in the best interest of your children

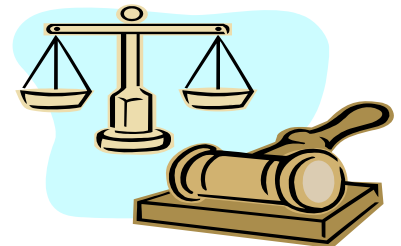



Family Code
§3170

California Law Defines Three Purposes of Mediation

- To reduce conflict between the parents
- To develop an agreement ensuring the child's close and continuing contact with both parents consistent with public policy and
- To effect a settlement regarding visitation rights that is in the best interest of the child

Family Code §3161





Mediation is to Assist Both Parents Reach an Agreement

- Mediators will help you work out the terms of a parenting plan with the other parent
- Your parenting plan may consist of:
 - How time will be shared during the school year and summer
 - Holidays and vacation schedules
 - Transportation and exchanges, and;
 - Other important details

What if Parents Already Have an Agreement?

- If both parents agree to a parenting plan, then there is no need for mediation
- To make your plan a court order, you must provide a written agreement to the court for approval
- If you have an agreement but need assistance with the paperwork, let the court know so we can help



End of Part One

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