

Child Protection Mediation – Overview and Supplemental Application

Child protection mediation (CPM) is a service available to families in the Family Court of the District of Columbia. These highly complex and emotionally charged cases are referred to mediation after a parent or caretaker has been legally petitioned with (or accused of) civil abuse or neglect. The parent may be accused of physically, psychologically, or sexually abusing a child or failing to provide the child with appropriate care and supervision.

CPM is a multi-party, one-time event that takes place with one or both parents or caretakers, their attorneys, an Assistant Attorney General (government), Social Workers from the Child and Family Services Agency, and the Guardian *ad litem* (the child's attorney). Mediations in the CPM program are held Monday – Friday with various times starting between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Mediators are expected to mediate once per month with a two-year commitment to the program. Because of the potential conflict of interest, CPM does not accept neutral applications from those currently employed with the District's Child and Family Services Agency, the Office of the Attorney General or trial lawyers currently practicing child abuse and neglect law in the District's Family Court.

In addition to completing the Multi-Door neutral application, please respond on separate sheets of paper to the following four statements.

1. Please write a brief paragraph detailing your experience in the areas listed below in which you have experience.

Child abuse and neglect issues

Domestic violence issues

Facilitation of multi-party disputes

Mental illness and/or Substance abuse

Contact with lawyers and the law

2. Please describe aspects of your experience that demonstrate your readiness to mediate child abuse and neglect matters.

3. Please describe a situation that required you to remain neutral.

4. Please tell us why you want to mediate child abuse and neglect matters.