

Preparing for Mediation

You should have the following information available for your mediation session:

1. Proof of gross income before taxes from all sources including unemployment benefits, worker's compensation, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), overtime income.
2. Bring your three (3) most recent paystubs, your most current W-2 or 1099 tax form, or your most recent tax return. Self-employed parties should bring verification of income. Welfare payments or benefits, child support received, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is not included for purposes of determining gross income.
3. Out-of-pocket cost of health insurance for the child(ren) being discussed in mediation. Please have available the difference between individual coverage, employee plus one (1) and family coverage if available, cost of work-related childcare expenses, proof of any child support ordered, and being paid for any other child(ren) from a different relationship.
4. Any other income related information that either party intends to rely on in mediation.

Resources

Office of Child Support Rhode Island:
<https://ocss.ri.gov/>

Rhode Island Family Court Mediation Program:
<https://www.courts.ri.gov/Courts/FamilyCourt/Pages/mediation.aspx>

Rhode Island Family Court Parenting Video:
<http://rifamilycourtparenting.42web.io/index.php>

Rhode Island Family Court Mediation Program

Suite 3A, Room 308
Garrahy Judicial Complex
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
Telephone: (401) 458-5032
Facsimile: (401) 458-3128

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Mediating Child Support

Working Together to Create Financial Stability for Your Child(ren)



Mediation

Mediation is a voluntary process in which a trained, neutral third-party assists parties to discuss the parties' concerns in a confidential, safe setting and explore options for a resolution. The mediators do not represent or advocate for either party and do not make decisions or force parties to agree to a particular solution.

The mediator helps the parties listen to one another, identify key issues, and explore solutions that work best for the parties' family. Mediation is a confidential process where each party has an opportunity to give the party's perspective while also being able to hear from the other party.

Once referred to mediation, the parties will receive notice from the Family Court Mediation Department as to the details of the session. At that session, the mediator will explain the entire process to the parties and address any concerns or questions either party may have.

The Benefits and Goals of Mediating Child Support

The benefits of mediating child support:

- 1. Provides a confidential setting where parents can collaborate and work together to find a mutually agreed upon solution for the financial support of the child(ren); and**
- 2. Gives both parents an opportunity to express any concerns and needs while keeping the focus on the child(ren).**

The goals of mediating child support:

- 1. To assist parties to have a productive conversation about sharing the costs related to the child(ren); and**
- 2. To assist parties to create an enforceable child support order.**

The Process of Mediation

The mediator will explain the mediation process and ask each party to give the party's perspective. The mediator will ask for the information needed to calculate the statutory child support amount and whether there are any present court orders regarding placement and parenting time.

In Rhode Island, child support considers what two (2) parents will most likely spend on raising the child(ren) based upon the parents' gross incomes.

The child support guidelines recommend a monthly child support amount which you and the other parent may discuss during mediation.