

Mediation Services at the Family Court

- It is a voluntary, confidential process used to resolve family conflict.
- It involves parties coming together and talking about their issues with a well-trained neutral third party called a **Family Mediator**.
- It encourages parties to cooperate, identify their issues and find amicable solutions to those issues.
- It helps couples going through divorce/separation and families who have trouble agreeing on issues such as their children's schooling, living arrangements, sharing expenses and the division of assets (i.e. who gets what), to find a solution to their issues.



Family Mediation at the Family Court is **FREE**. Persons can be referred to mediation by a Judge or Master. Persons who do not have an existing matter can contact the Family Court to request **mediation services**. However, both parties must agree to go through the process.

- 1** After introductions and agreement on the ground rules, each party will be asked to identify the problems in their own words.
- 2** With the help of the **Family Mediator**, the parties will discuss the problems and explore options for finding solutions.
- 3** If an agreement is reached on any or all of the issues, the Family Mediator will draft a Mediation Agreement to be signed by both parties. Each party will get a copy. **If parties are referred by the Court, a copy of the Agreement will be sent to the referring Judge or Master.**



UNDERSTANDING FAMILY MEDIATION

Family Mediation is...

...a structured, voluntary process where an impartial third party (Family Mediator) assists persons in conflict to resolve their issues to their mutual satisfaction.

Family Mediation is NOT...

...a substitute for legal advice, therapy or counselling. It simply fosters discussion, cooperation and communication between family members to resolve conflict.



The Family Mediator

The Family Mediator guides the discussion between parties and acts as an impartial third party. He/She drafts the Mediation Agreement but does not give legal advice or judgements.

The Attorney-at-Law

You do not need an attorney to participate. If you are represented by an attorney, he/she will assist with preparing you for mediation and can be allowed to attend the session to give legal advice. He/She can also assist you when finalising the Mediation Agreement.

For more information, please contact the Family Court:

- **Family Court - Port of Spain** | Cipriani Place, 4 Cipriani Boulevard, Port of Spain
(868) 223-1060 Ext. 1254-1258/3507 | fcn.response@ttlawcourts.org
- **Family Court - Princes Town** | 271 Naparima Mayaro Road, Princes Town
(868) 223-1060 Ext. 6400 | fcp.response@ttlawcourts.org
- **Family Court - Tobago** | 54 Calder Hall Main Road, Scarborough, Tobago
(868) 223-1060 Ext.1259-1261/1265 | fct.response@ttlawcourts.org

FCDTrinidadandTobago



FCD_JudiciaryTT

