



Agreement to Mediate

Permanency Planning Mediation (PPM) is a voluntary process intended to help participants effectively communicate and create the best possible future for children and their families. Agreeing to mediate is agreeing to have a guided conversation and explore how this might be possible; it is not agreeing to any specific plan or outcome. To get the most out of mediation, it is important to understand the following:

Mediation is confidential** (*California Evidence code sections 1115-1126*)

- Openness, honesty, and candor are important when trying to create sustainable plans and agreements.
- Nothing said in mediation can be shared with anyone else unless separate written permission is given.
- If mediation participants reach a draft agreement and give their consent, Consortium for Children (CFC) will provide authorized persons (e.g., attorneys, assigned social workers) a copy of the draft for review.
- CFC will provide copies of any finalized, signed agreement to the participants, their attorneys, and the assigned social worker, with the original agreement to be filed with the court.
- The PPM Mediator cannot be subpoenaed to reveal what occurred during the mediation process.
- **Two exceptions to confidentiality - PPM Mediators will report any:
 - 1) Threat of danger to any person.
 - 2) New incidents of child abuse or neglect disclosed to or seen by the mediator.

The PPM Mediator

- will assist the participants in formulating an agreement or plan that is acceptable to everyone involved.
- is a neutral, unbiased, and impartial professional who will not take sides nor make recommendations.
- is not connected to the participants, the Court, or the Social Service Agency.
- is not acting as an attorney, judge, or therapist, and cannot provide counseling, therapy, or legal advice. (Participants are encouraged to consult with legal or other professionals throughout the process.)

PPM gives participants the opportunity to

- Focus on the best interests of the children involved.
- Work collaboratively with important people in the children’s lives.
- Express their needs and hear the needs of the others involved.
- Meet separately with the mediator unless all parties agree to meet together.

I have read and understand the above and I agree to actively participate in the mediation process and to work cooperatively on behalf of _____
(Child/ren’s full names)

Participant’s Signature

Printed Name

Date

Participant’s Signature

Printed Name

Date