

## Who can I talk to if I have questions about mediation?

To find out more, you can contact the **Project** at **604 516-0788** or [fmpp@telus.net](mailto:fmpp@telus.net)

More information about mediation can be found at the **Dispute Resolution Office** website at <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/dro/family-mediation/index.htm> or at the BC Mediator Roster Society website at [www.mediator-roster.bc.ca](http://www.mediator-roster.bc.ca)

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JUSTICE  
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# Family Mediation Practicum Project

**FREE service for families  
undergoing separation**

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# FREE SERVICE FOR FAMILIES UNDERGOING SEPARATION

## Mediation

can be used for many kinds of family disputes and it is most often used when couples separate or divorce. Mediation is a confidential way for couples to reach fair, long lasting agreements without the pain and trauma associated with separation and divorce proceedings.

One of the aims of mediation is to produce agreements without costly court proceedings which can cause bitter disagreements and stress for couples and/or children.

Mediators are impartial and have no decision making powers. Mediators do not give legal advice during mediation, even if they are a lawyer mediator. They are there to help both parties work out a plan for the future as a couple and as parents while leading separate lives. If you and the other party or parties reach

an agreement on how to resolve your dispute, the mediator may draft an agreement for you both to sign.

If you are in the process of separating or divorcing, you may be able to work out disagreements by participating in mediation. The Family Mediation Practicum Project provides free mediation services for some family disputes. The mediations are supervised by highly trained and experienced mentors who assist the mediators to prepare for and conduct every mediation.

This Project receives funding from the Law Foundation of BC and the BC Ministry of Attorney General and is administered by a non-profit society, the BC Dispute Resolution Practicum Society. The only cost to you is when you require the services of an interpreter or a signer.

## *Why would I choose mediation to resolve a family dispute?*

- *Mediation works to settle family disputes. This dispute resolution process is used in other provinces in Canada and other countries, including the United States and Australia. Research shows that in some programs up to 78% of disputes are settled through mediation.*
- *When children are involved, parents often continue to have a relationship. Mediation can help to develop better channels of communication and to build new, appropriate relationships after divorce or separation.*
- *Through mediation, people usually arrive at a final resolution more quickly and conveniently than by going to trial and asking a judge to decide their case.*
- *Many people get personal satisfaction from using the mediation process. They prefer to take an active part in solving their own problems, rather than waiting for a judge to impose a solution.*