

LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

MEDIATION AND FAMILY COURT SERVICES

CONTINUED MEDIATION GUIDELINES

This is an agreement by the parties to attempt to mediate issues arising out of their parenting relationship. By signing this document below, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the following guidelines and agree to participate in this session in accordance with the guidelines:

1. Mediation is a voluntary process which may be ended at any time.
2. Each party is required to pay \$100 to the Clerk of Courts prior to our appointment or obtain a waiver of the mediation fee through the Family Court Commissioner prior to our appointment. MFCS may communicate with Clerk of Court staff to confirm payment of mediation fees.
3. This session is confidential, except for allegations of child abuse or neglect or serious threats of bodily harm to anyone. You may not record the session. If you are participating by telephone, you must be in a location where others cannot overhear the conversation.
4. You understand the mediator will meet privately with each party during the session; this is called a caucus. Information shared in the caucus is confidential and will not be shared with the other parent. However, allegations of child abuse or neglect or serious threats of bodily harm to anyone must be reported to appropriate authorities whether shared in a joint or individual session.
5. You agree not to subpoena the mediator. In no event will the mediator voluntarily either testify on behalf of either party or submit any evaluative report to the Court in connection with this case. The mediator is serving as a neutral third party, not an evaluator. However, if the court ordered you to participate in mediation, the mediator will inform the Court you appeared for mediation and if you reached any agreements.*
6. The mediator is not acting as an advocate or attorney for either side, and will not provide legal, financial, or therapeutic advice.
7. You agree to make a good faith effort to discuss the issues with the aid of the mediator and to fully disclose all relevant information.
8. If you reach an agreement, the terms of the agreement will be mailed to each party and their respective attorney in the form of an informal letter agreement. This informal agreement has no legal authority.
9. While you are not required to have an attorney to participate in mediation, the mediation program recommends that each party consult with independent legal counsel for advice on the legal implications of their informal agreement and to determine whether you will submit it to the Court in a format that has legal authority.
10. You understand that the mediator has the right to end the session at any time if the mediator feels that the case is inappropriate for mediation or further discussions would not be helpful.

Party	Date	Party	Date
Mediator	Date	Interpreter/Other	Date

FOR TELEPHONE SESSIONS:

Father Mother Both Parties **appeared telephonically, this document was read to the party/ies in its entirety, and the party/ies verbally agreed to the terms provided herein.**

Witness	Date
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*Fed. R. Evid. 408(a)(2); Wisc. Stat. 904.085