



# Second Judicial District Court

**Department Title:** Family Services Department

**Program Title:** Family Mediation Program

**Manager:** Mary Herzik

**Hours of Operation:** Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Program Description:** Separation and divorce will bring many emotional and physical changes for families. When couples separate, they need to discuss many issues, including plans for parenting their children. When lawyers and the court system determine a family's future, parents may feel like bystanders in their own separation or divorce. Mediation is a way for parents to become active participants in resolving their conflicts. Through mediation, it is possible to come to an agreement that balances the interests of every family member and helps parents focus on the needs of the child(ren).

In mediation, the parties will discuss how parenting time is to be divided, what holidays are important to the family, communication and education decisions, extended family relationships, telephone access and communication, child care providers, changes to the parenting schedule and parents' courtesies to each other, among other things. If an agreement is reached in mediation, a written agreement is prepared by the mediator and provided to each party and the court.

Ultimately, the goal of mediation is to achieve the best possible outcome for children and families.

**Accessible Services and Support:** Eight contract mediators are available.

## Summary of Services

Year Family Mediation Program started in the SJDC **1991**

Average number of mediations per month **40**

Are discussions in mediation confidential? **Yes**

**Contact us:** (775) 328-3298

*To assist parents with resolving conflicts during and after separation or divorce by working out solutions for custody and visitation which support a child's ongoing relationship with both parents.*