

Where Should I Go for Mediation?

The Lucas County Division of Child Support Services
701 Adams Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

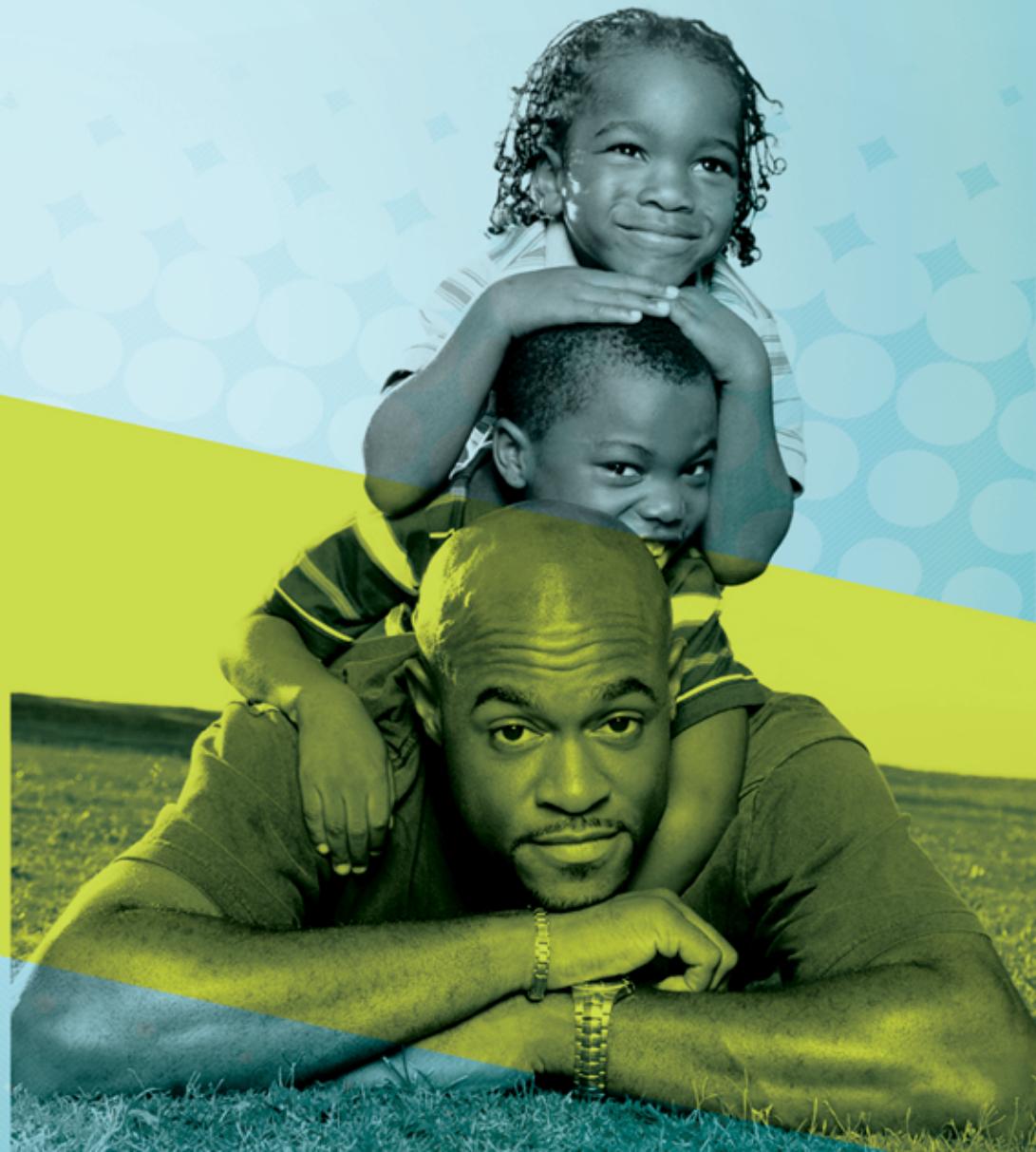
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Website:
www.jfs.ohio.gov/ocs



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A Parent's Guide to Access & Visitation Mediation





Why Should I Consider Mediation?

Mediation gives parents the opportunity to create a parenting plan that can become a court order.

A court-approved mediation agreement protects both parents and their children because it gives them a back-up plan.

If parents reach a point where they can no longer talk to each other, then the back-up plan – the schedule for parenting time, child support, and decision making – will already be in place.

When parents are involved and establish on-going relationships with their children early on, they are more likely to stay active in their children's lives.

Children with involved parents have a reduced risk of:

- Substance abuse
- Teen pregnancy
- School dropout

Free Mediation Services for Income Eligible Cases

What is Access & Visitation Mediation?

In Access and Visitation mediation, the mediator will talk with parents and help them develop a parenting plan.

Parents should be prepared to discuss all of the following:

Parenting Time

Parenting time is the actual schedule that states when children spend time with each parent. Parents will make a regular day-to-day schedule. Also, they will create a plan for holiday and vacation times.



Decision Making

Parents will determine who will make major decisions in the life of the child, including medical and school issues.

Child Support Obligations

In addition to establishing support for the child, the mediator will ask about health insurance for the child, out-of-pocket medical expenses, and tax dependents.

What Should I Bring to Mediation?

- Any court records related to the parents or children that could impact parenting issues
- Income documentation such as: paystubs, tax filings, child care costs, and health insurance costs for the child
- School calendars, work schedules, and children's activity schedules

Note: Please do NOT bring your children to mediation unless you have received approval, in advance, from the mediator.