

### *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.

Phone:  
(419) 213 – 3000  
(800) 466 – 6396 (Toll free)  
(419) 259 – 3094 (TTY)

Website:  
[www.jfs.ohio.gov/ocs](http://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.

