

Parent Coordination Services

The Parent Coordinator is a professional who employs special skills to aid parents in conflict resolution. The main focus of the Parent Coordinator is the relationship that exists between the parents and the well-being of the children. The Parent Coordinator helps parents to focus on the task of communicating and making joint decisions resulting in a healthier, more civilized parenting style.

Parent Coordination Services are provided by private centers outside of the Stark County Family Court. Retainer fees ranging from \$240.00 to \$500.00 are required prior to the initiation of services. The fees are split equally between the parties unless otherwise ordered by the court. Brochures detailing individual providers are available. Please contact Rosemary P. Diamond (330) 451-7435 for additional information.



Judge Jim D. James, Judge Rosemarie A. Hall, and Judge Michelle L. Cordova serve as Judges of the Domestic Relations Division of the Court of Common Pleas. The Juvenile Court falls under the jurisdiction of the Domestic Relations Division.

Court Administrator
Diane Wilson

Assistant Court Administrator
Jacob Morgan

Chief Magistrate
Matthew Kreitzer

Rosemary P. Diamond
Mediation & Visitation Coordinator
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Stark County Family Court

PARENTING SERVICES



Judges

Hon. Jim D. James
Hon. Rosemarie A. Hall
Hon. Michelle L. Cordova

Parenting Services Family Court Offers

-  Family Liaison Intervention
-  Parenting Time Exchanges
-  Parenting Time Supervision
-  Parent Coordination Services
-  Mediation
-  Working Together for Kids

Mediation & Visitation Coordinator

At the request of the parties, their attorneys, or the Court, the Family Liaison Specialist will assist, coordinate, or provide parenting services. Some parenting issues can be resolved without formal court intervention and both parties must agree to participate. Problems with parenting time, child care, visitation exchanges and communication with the other parent are just some of the issues that can often be resolved with the assistance from the Family Court's Family Liaison Specialist. Parenting Services are provided at no cost by the Family Liaison Specialist.

Contact Rosemary P. Diamond, (330) 451-7435, for questions or to schedule an informal mediation.

Mediation

Mediation is available to cases filed in both the Domestic Relations Division and the Juvenile Court Division. Mediation is a conflict resolution process in which an impartial, neutral third party intervenes in a conflict with the parties' consent and helps them negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement.

Upon referral by the Judge or Magistrate, the parties attend a brief orientation session at the Court which is designed to give them an understanding of the process and its goals. The parties are then assigned to a court approved mediator. Mediation fees are based upon a sliding fee scale determined by the combined incomes of the participants. Fees range from no charge for indigent parties to \$130 per mediation session for parties whose incomes exceed \$100,000. The mediation fee is typically split between the parties.

Attorneys play an important role in the mediation process. Although the attorneys do not attend the mediation sessions, parties are encouraged to consult with their attorneys throughout the process. If the parties reach an agreement, the mediator will give all parties a copy of the mediation agreement. The parties are instructed to take the agreement to their attorneys for review. A mediation agreement is not binding until the Court has approved the agreement.

The parties mediating have total control of the outcome of the mediation. The mediator assists the parties in identifying and obtaining information that would be helpful in resolving the dispute. The mediator also creates the opportunity for the parties to gain greater understanding of one another.

Sometimes parties cannot agree on all issues. When this happens, a partial agreement is prepared. The issues that could not be decided are presented to the Court for its decision.

All mediations are CONFIDENTIAL. If, for any reason, the parties are unable to reach agreement and/or the matter proceeds

to Court, the parties cannot use information provided by the other in the mediation sessions. The Mediator cannot be called by either party to recount any discussions or behaviors that took place during the sessions.

The greatest benefit for mediation is the parties are given an opportunity to develop their own resolution for the disputed issues. This is accomplished through a cooperative process where everyone can win and where issues can be resolved in a timely, less expensive manner. The financial and emotional tolls to person are minimized. Communication is encouraged and provides participants with problem-solving skills they can use in the future.

Never Married Parents

"Working Together for Kids" is a Court program designed for cases in which the parents were never married. When never married parents come to the court for child support, custody, or visitation requests, they will be referred to this program. The Court, through two evening sessions, offers training, mediation and other important skills to assist parents. The goal of the program is to help parents make decisions about parenting time with their child/ren.

The Working Together for Kids Program requires attendance at two sessions. At the first session, a magistrate and psychologist discuss parent's rights, responsibilities, parenting strategies, and communication skills. The second session offers a question and answer period and then time to meet with a mediator. If an agreement is not reached through mediation, then the case goes through the regular court process. Resolution through trial will take much longer and be more costly than through mediation. The goal of this program is to make parents think about how decisions about companionship will affect the child.