

It is necessary that you make a commitment to cooperate with the Family Services Office in the following ways:

1. Keep scheduled appointments and arrive on time for all meetings.
2. Remain open to new suggestions and ideas.
3. Sign the necessary Authorization for Release of Information forms and bring all requested information to your appointments.
4. Do not bring children with you to the Conflict Resolution Conference.

For additional information, contact your local Court Support Services Division – Family Services Office. Contact information is available at the Superior Court – Court Service Center.

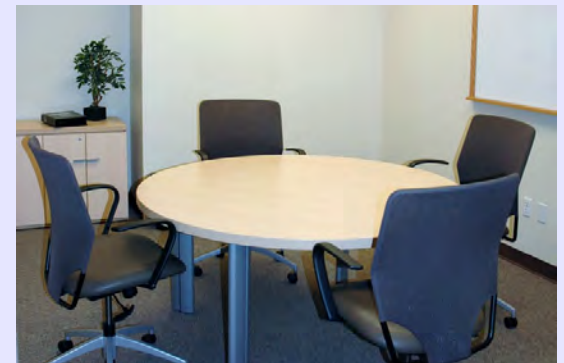
The Judicial Branch of the State of Connecticut complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation in accordance with the ADA, contact a court clerk or an ADA contact person listed at www.jud.ct.gov/ADA.

For more information, you may go to the Judicial Branch website at:
www.jud.ct.gov



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Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division Family Services Conflict Resolution Conference



Introduction

The Conflict Resolution Conference (CRC) is a confidential service that helps parents solve parenting issues in a cooperative and positive manner. In this process the parents are able to keep their decision-making roles in solving family disputes with the assistance of a Family Relations Counselor (FRC). Attorneys of record may be included in the meetings and relevant information from community resources/agencies involved with the family will be made part of the process.

It is important that parents work together to make joint decisions for their children's care and development. The CRC supports this process by guiding and educating the parents. This usually results in a parenting plan that is successful and less stressful for all involved.

The main issues dealt with in this process are child custody and/or access arrangements. However, if the parents and the attorneys agree, some financial and property issues may also be addressed.

What to Expect

To take part in the Conflict Resolution Conference, parents must be referred by the Family Court. At the start of the

process the parents may be asked to sign Authorization for Release of Information forms. The FRC assigned to the case can then get information from professional sources, such as schools, therapists or doctors, which may help in resolving the issue.

The CRC is a confidential process. Exceptions to this will be discussed in the first session. There may be up to two, 3-hour sessions in all, and the attorneys of record may be brought into the process at any time.

One role of the FRC is to provide a neutral, supportive, and structured place for discussions to occur. The counselor helps to keep the focus of the meetings on the best interests of the children while allowing the needs and desires of the parents to be considered. The FRC may also provide education about alternative parenting plans and how they are impacted by the stages of child development. It is also possible that the FRC will consider information received from other resources, in an attempt to help the parents resolve their differences. While the parents keep their roles as the decision-makers in this process, the FRC may offer their verbal assessment of the situation and ultimately share recommendations they believe will resolve the issues. These assessments and recommendations are not reported to the Court.

If the parents reach an agreement during the CRC, the terms of that agreement are reported to the Court, the parents, and attorneys of record. The agreement becomes legally binding upon order of the Court.

Even when an agreement is not reached during the sessions, the CRC process is still helpful. Parents often leave with a greater understanding of different parenting plans and how they might meet the needs of their children.

Parenting plans may need to change several times over the years for a variety of reasons. If parents need help in resolving issues about their children after the CRC process is completed, they may contact the Court Support Services Division – Family Services for direction.

Tips for Success

Your participation and cooperation throughout the CRC process is essential.

We know that the process may be a stressful and emotional one. However, it is helpful to listen to what everyone has to say and to share your opinions and concerns in a way that shows respect for everyone in the process.