

### How much time will mediation take?

Each person will meet with the mediator for about an hour to define their issues and then both parties together will meet with the mediator for a two-hour session to address their concerns. More time can be scheduled as needed to negotiate a complete agreement.

### Who are the mediators?

Our mediators are trained, experienced mediators approved by the Kansas State Supreme Court. They have been selected because of their knowledge and experience with domestic and family mediation.

We are a mentorship program where newly educated mediators are mentored by state approved professional colleagues.

### What will this cost me?

Mediation fees are outlined in the middle inside-panel of this brochure. In an attempt to provide affordable services, we have based our sliding-fee schedule on the income of each involved person. Mediation can take two or more hours depending on the amount and complexity of the concerns that are being discussed in mediation. Often more than one mediation session is needed to complete divorce or parenting plan agreements.

*Riley and Geary Counties  
Domestic Mediation provides  
an opportunity for people to  
resolve challenging situations,  
and gives children the chance  
to develop and maintain  
positive relationships with  
each of their parents through  
the development of a mutually  
acceptable parenting plan.*

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### Riley and Geary Counties Domestic Mediation Program

*We also serve individuals outside of Riley & Geary Counties.  
Please call to find out if we can mediate for you. Online  
services are available through our program.*

Phone: (785) 370-5162

Email: [rgmediation@ksu.edu](mailto:rgmediation@ksu.edu)

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### Riley and Geary Counties Domestic Mediation Program



### Mediation...

- ❖ Mediation often creates resolution more quickly and is less expensive than contesting a matter in court.
- ❖ The parents make the decisions.
- ❖ Promotes creative solutions focused on the children's and family's needs.
- ❖ Directly considers parents' concerns and works to find solutions that everyone can live with.

*To get more information or to  
request a mediation, call  
(785) 370-5162*

## What is mediation?

Mediation is a way for people in disagreement to discuss the problem with the help of a third party who will not take sides. Meetings are confidential and the final agreement is provided to the participants.

Before mediation, the mediator will help to define and clarify concerns and prepare how to communicate about them so that real-to-life options are developed to address the concerns.

During mediation, the mediator guides communication and concerns are discussed, solutions explored and agreements negotiated. The end goal of the mediation process for most is to have a written agreement or parenting plan.

A parenting plan is a legal document filed with the court defining the legal custody, residency and parenting time to be exercised by parents. Often the plan will also include how the parents will communicate about important matters, school, extracurricular activities, and provisions for long-distance parenting when parents do not live in the same town, city, or state.

Once the agreement is signed by the parties, it can be submitted to a judge for approval and order. *Parties are always encouraged to submit their agreements to an attorney for review before filing it with the court.*

## Mediation Fee Schedule

INDIVIDUAL GROSS INCOME	FEE FOR INITIAL MEDIATION*	PER HOUR AFTER INITIAL MEDIATION
Under \$10,000	\$80	\$20
\$10,001-\$15,000	\$100	\$25
\$15,001-\$20,000	\$120	\$30
\$20,001-\$25,000	\$140	\$35
\$25,001-\$30,000	\$160	\$40
\$30,001-\$35,000	\$180	\$45
\$35,001-\$40,000	\$220	\$55
\$40,001-\$50,000	\$280	\$70
Over \$50,001	\$400	\$100

\* Each person's initial mediation fee covers: approximately one hour for individual interview and preparation to mediate and two-hours in joint mediation. This fee also includes administrative work such as scheduling, writing of agreements that are made in mediation along with screening and post-mediation reports for court-ordered or court mandated mediation.

Annual income is determined by a recent tax return, pay stub, or child support worksheet. Fees must be paid prior to the start of each session.

## Is mediation mandatory?

The courts recognize that adjustments to the restructuring of a family can be difficult for everyone and especially on dependents.

The policy of the 21st Judicial District Court Rules state that parties to a contested case involving child custody or parenting time must attempt to settle the issues through mediation. The court will not set a divorce, separate maintenance, or post-divorce proceeding involving minor children until the parents have complied with this rule. The court may waive this requirement for good cause.

Cases in the 8th Judicial District may also be court-ordered to mediation. The parties may elect to choose either: (1) a mutually agreed upon specific private mediator, or (2) a mediator from Riley and Geary Counties Domestic Mediation Services can be assigned. Local court policy provides that parties in post-divorce cases involving issues other than enforcing parenting time are subject to the mandatory mediation requirements. Parents with issues concerning enforcement of parenting time in a post-divorce proceeding may also agree to mediate those issues.

Although participation in mediation itself is voluntary, check the presiding court or district rules for mandatory requirements.

*Each person must contact our coordinator at (785) 370-5162 before mediation will be scheduled.*