

# Juvenile Matters

## *Locations and Telephone Numbers*

Juvenile Matters at Bridgeport  
(203) 579-6544

Juvenile Matters and Child Protection  
Session at Danbury (203) 797-4407

Juvenile Matters at Hartford  
(860) 244-7900

Juvenile Matters at Middletown  
(860) 344-2986

Child Protection Session at Middletown  
(860) 343-6456

Juvenile Matters at New Britain  
(860) 515-5165

Juvenile Matters at New Haven  
(860) 786-0337

Juvenile Matters at Norwalk  
(203) 866-9275

Juvenile Matters at Rockville  
(860) 872-7143

Juvenile Matters at Stamford  
(203) 956-5708

Juvenile Matters at Torrington  
(860) 489-0201

Juvenile Matters at Waterbury  
(203) 596-4202

Juvenile Matters at Waterford  
(860) 440-5880

Juvenile Matters and Child Protection  
Session at Willimantic (860) 456-5700



Funding for the program provided by a grant from The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, and the Court Improvement Program.



JDP-JM-159  
Rev. 12/08

Copyright © 2006, 2008  
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch,  
Division of Superior Court Operations

# CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION

## *Resolving Disputes . . . to Protect the Child*



## Superior Court Juvenile Matters

## *What is Child Protection Mediation?*

Child protection mediation is a voluntary program that tries to solve problems without taking sides. The program is designed to add to Order of Temporary Custody Neglect Termination of Parental Rights and other types of case conferences involved with child protection.

### *Child Protection Mediation is:*

- Purely voluntary
- Confidential
- Held only if all parties to the case agree
- Referred by the court, not ordered by the court
- Designed to cover any issues in dispute



## *Who are the Mediators?*

Each mediation team has two members. Teams are available for each court location. The make-up of each team takes into account gender, cultural competency and area of expertise. The teams include Court Services Officers, private attorneys and clinicians. The mediation teams receive approximately 50 (fifty) hours of training before they may take cases.

## *What Types of Cases may be Referred?*

Referrals for mediation are not limited to certain case types. Any child protection matter including neglect, termination, permanency review and guardianship cases may be referred.

### **Case issues include, but are not limited to:**

- Complex service and resource availability
- Maintaining on-going relationships, including visitation
- Achieving permanency for the child
- Critical need for placement stability
- Open adoption, as an alternative
- New trial court litigation on cases where an appeal is pending on other issues

## *How is a Case Referred?*

- Cases may be referred at any time in the case after it is filed
- A case may be referred in court, at a case management conference, or at a case status conference

### **The Process Includes:**

- Completing the intake process with a Court Services Officer
- Obtaining the Judge's approval

### **The Intake/Referral Process Includes:**

- Completing the intake/referral form
- Selecting a mediation team
- Signing an agreement to participate in mediation and a confidentiality agreement
- Scheduling a date to return to court

## *What Happens After the Mediation Session?*

If the parties reach an agreement, the parties put the agreement in writing. The agreement is then reviewed in court by the judge and, if approved, made part of the decision of the case.

If the parties do not reach an agreement, they go back to court for the court to handle.

