

PRE-MEDIATION COACHING & ISSUE FOCUSING

by Christopher Hahn, Ph.D., MBA

Helping to Solve Disputes Out of Court—Making Mediation More Successful

"Children are best served by arrangements that are reached by genuinely mutual consent and in a timely fashion." (Prof. Michael Lamb) Mediation is one of the best ways to help children caught in the middle of separation and divorce. Chris Hahn provides services intended to result in the best co-parenting mediation outcomes.

Through his experience and his continual quest for new and better techniques, Dr. Hahn now offers pre-mediation services that can be used in advance of mediations by other mediators, or with him as co-mediator or sole mediator.

Pre-Mediation Services

Skill Development Coaching and *Issue Focusing* are separate services that may be employed individually or jointly

Develop the mediation-specific skills of:

- ◇ Managing Emotions
- ◇ Flexible Thinking
- ◇ Moderate Behavior
- ◇ Checking awareness of skill use

Issue focusing may include:

- ◇ Research into family histories & behaviors
- ◇ Child interviews & Family Observations
- ◇ Research-based parenting information
- ◇ Review of financial documents

Dr. Hahn is trained in pre-mediation coaching and uses a *High Conflict Institute* pre-mediation workbook with each parent. He uses his experience as a family mediator, parenting evaluator, and parenting coordinator when he provides the service of helping the parties refine their insight into the most important parenting issues.

Work done prior to mediation sessions can allow the parties to enter mediations with new decision-making skills and a reasoned focus on the issues.

Because these services are part of a mediation process, they are protected and confidential according to Montana statute (MCA § 26-1-813).. Dr. Hahn may not provide non-confidential services in any case (parenting evaluation or coordination) after he provides pre-mediation or mediation services.

Mediated solutions can preserve working relationships. They are less expensive than Court battles, and they frequently result in more satisfying agreements for all parties.

Attorneys, individual parties, corporate counsel, and others concerned with external and internal conflict are invited to contact Dr. Hahn for a gratis initial discussion.

Dr. Hahn earned BA, MBA, and Ph.D. degrees. His Ph.D. is in Human Services with as much focus as possible on child custody issues. His dissertation research was on successful long-term joint physical custodies. He is a Certified Mediator through the Montana Mediation Association with Full and Family Designation and a member of the Board at the Community Mediation Center. He is the author of *Doing Qualitative Research Using Your Computer* and is currently involved with research about the effectiveness of Pre-Mediation Coaching.