

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR PARENT PLEDGE SERVICES?

Contact us today to learn if Parent Pledge is right for you! It's available to parents who live or work in Manhattan and Brooklyn, except when:

- A family has an open case for custody and/or visitation in the Family Court – unless it takes place at the Harlem Community Justice Center. There is a mediation program in the Family Court for active cases, but it does not mediate child support matters. In order to mediate child support together with custody and/or visitation matters, parents can withdraw their case from court for mediation. (Parents retain the right to re-file after the mediation at any point).
- There is an open case with child protective services (ACS) that is under investigation. Families receiving preventive services may be eligible for Parent Pledge services.
- Domestic violence is present (mediation is not appropriate for where domestic violence is an issue).
- A petitioner has already filed for child support or a local public assistance agency has filed for support on behalf of a custodial parent receiving public assistance. If a petition for child support is withdrawn from Family Court, the case may be eligible for Parent Pledge services.

HOW DO I REQUEST A MEDIATION?

Contact us now to learn more!

Parents, find out more about establishing child support and co-parenting plans out of court. And we accept referrals -- ask us about presentations for your organization or agency. For more information contact:

Asha George
Ageorge1@nycourts.gov
(212) 360-8753

Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, and a description of the matters you would like to address in mediation.

PARENT PLEDGE

Harlem Community Justice Center
170 East 121st Street
New York, NY 10035

www.courtinnovation.org/parent-pledge-project
www.nypeace.org

Mediation appointments also available in lower Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn.



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PARENT PLEDGE MEDIATION



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WHAT IS PARENT PLEDGE MEDIATION?

Parent Pledge mediation provides separated parents the opportunity to **discuss co-parenting and child support** rights and responsibilities in a **collaborative environment** with the help of **professional mediators**. Parents can discuss any topic that is important and **relevant to their unique circumstances** and work through some core issues, with help from the mediators to reach a **mutually agreeable parenting plan** that really meets everyone's needs. These mediators have **extensive conflict resolution training** and are knowledgeable in the field of co-parenting and child support.

WHAT ARE SOME POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF PARENT PLEDGE MEDIATION?

Parents have a choice: Parents can put the terms of their mediated agreement in writing and decide whether they wish to keep it between themselves voluntarily or file the agreement in Family Court. The parents can choose at any point to file a petition in court in order to get a formal enforceable agreement.

Typically, Parent Pledge takes 2-3 mediation sessions, each between 1.5 and 2 hours in length.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TOPICS THAT MAY BE DISCUSSED IN MEDIATION?

Parents can discuss any topics relevant to their unique circumstances. Some common topics include:

- Child support
- Communication between parents
- Schedules
- Decision Making



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARENT PLEDGE MEDIATION?

Mediation is Beneficial for Your Child(ren): Working together for your child(ren)'s development is the right thing and it does work!

Mediation is Free: Avoid the cost of going to court and hiring an attorney. Take advantage of professional services by highly qualified mediators at no cost.

Mediation is Effective: Mediated agreements have high compliance rates. When people reach an agreement together, they usually stick to that plan because it meets their needs and is realistic for them.

Mediation is Convenient: Choose from any of our four convenient locations in Uptown Manhattan, Downtown Manhattan, and Brooklyn to schedule your mediation.

Mediation is Voluntary: Be proactive and use the mediation process to resolve conflict and make decisions in your child(ren)'s best interest.

Mediation is Faster: Resolve custody, visitation, and support issues in less time than it would take through the court. If you decide to file in court for a support order, go before 1 p.m. to receive expedited, same-day review of the support agreement.

Mediation is Collaborative: Trained professional mediators can help you focus on the future in collaborating with the other parent to create a workable parenting plan.

Mediation is Confidential: Information shared in a mediation is legally protected and cannot be used as evidence in any court. Nothing said in mediation will be shared outside of the Parent Pledge Program by mediators or staff, unless we hear about a child in danger.

Mediation is Empowering: Have greater control over parenting and childcare decisions when you decide the terms of the agreement yourself.

Mediation is Flexible: Create an agreement with creative solutions to fit your unique needs.