



FAMILY SERVICES OTTAWA SERVICES À LA FAMILLE OTTAWA

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

Are You Currently Working with a Children's Aid Society?

How can Child Protection Mediation (CPM) help you and your family?

- Allows families to have an active role in planning and decision-making.
- Respects and values the voices of all participants.
- Allows for children and youth to have a voice.
- Helps improve communications and relationships.
- Meets each family's unique needs.
- Language interpretation services are provided, if required.
- Provided by someone who is highly trained, doesn't take sides and does not work for your Children's Aid Society.
- Often faster than the court process.
- Can be started at any time.

Child Protection Mediation (CPM) is a way of assisting participants create a plan that stays focussed on what is best for the children. <https://www.cpmed.ca/>

Did you know?

According to the Child, Youth and Family Services Act of Ontario (2018), Children's Aid Societies need to consider an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), when a child/youth is or may be in need of protection.

The ADR programs give you, your family and the Children's Aid Society a chance to work together to make decisions about the care of your children. It may take place before court involvement or during the court process.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I change my mind?

ADR is voluntary and no one has to participate. It's your right to stop at any point.

What if the ADR process does not end in an agreement?

If there is no agreement, the case continues just like it was before it was referred.

Is there a cost to the family for ADR?

There is no charge to families; this program is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

How does the child/youth have a voice?

To ensure that children's voices are heard, the Children's Aid Society is required to notify the Office of the Children's Lawyer (OCL) that ADR is being proposed. The OCL may appoint a lawyer for the child/youth.

Where/How to start?

Ask your society worker to consider a referral. Once a referral is made, the ADR Program will notify the Office of the Children's Lawyer who may appoint a lawyer to ensure your child(ren)'s/youth voice is heard. Then the Alternative Dispute Program contacts an ADR service provider to get things started.

What Happens Next?

The ADR service provider meets with you, your society worker and your family to review:

- How things will look and what to expect;
- The purpose of the meeting;
- Where and when the meeting will be held.

What Happens After?

When the process is finished, everyone will be sent a summary of the agreed upon plan. You are encouraged to review this with your lawyer. You and your family will work together with your Children's Aid Society to carry out the plan.

For more information about the ADR program and how it can help you and your children:

- Speak to your society worker and ask for more information on any of the ADR approaches.
- If you have a lawyer representing you, speak with your lawyer.

Call the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program.

Family Services Ottawa
312 Parkdale Avenue
Ottawa ON K1Y 4X5

Phone: (613) 725-3601 ext. 221
Fax: (613) 725-6164
Email: adr@familyservicesottawa.org