

Child Custody Mediation in Utah

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Going through a [divorce](#) is almost always an extremely emotional and stressful process. When a disagreement over the [custody of a child](#) enters into the equation, the distress and conflict that arises can be life-shattering. Parties in a divorce must enter into a trial situation [when they cannot agree](#) on a shared [custody arrangement](#) and must be ***forced to obey a schedule decided on by a judge***. When this happens, it is likely that the two parents will never reach an amicable agreement. ***This is not in the best interests of the child as the animosity that develops over the course of years is certain to affect them adversely.***

Whenever possible, [mediation](#) is far preferable to the alternative. ***Mediation is an important step in ensuring that the well-being and best interests of the child, or children, and both parties involved can be secured.*** A mediator can help to facilitate ***communication*** in a way that makes both sides able to ***listen to each other's concerns while avoiding a destructive conflict.*** Salt Lake City, Utah child custody mediation attorney, [David Pedrazas](#), has handled *thousands* of custody cases and can provide you with the ***knowledge and experience*** you need.

The Cost of Custody Mediation

The cost of custody mediation will ***depend on the number of issues*** that need to be worked out, the ***amount of time the mediator must spend*** working with the parties, and the ***fees schedule*** of the mediator. Mediation is almost always ***less expensive than fighting over custody in court***. This is because there will be ***fewer legal fees*** and because ***mediation is simpler and less time-consuming.***

Mediation is in the Best Interest of the Child

In the state of Utah, [parents who divorce are strongly encouraged to work together to the best of their ability before taking their case before a judge.](#) This is because in Utah, just like in every other state in the Union, the ***best interests of the child are the first priority*** and because a ***mutually agreeable settlement is always less traumatic*** than a fiercely contested custody arrangement. For this reason, the State of Utah asks that the parties to a [divorce](#) enter into [mediation](#) before going to court.

Because ***the court is legally obligated to look out for the best interests of the child first*** – before considering the rights or needs of the mother or father- going into mediation is always preferable. In a trial situation, there will always be a winner and a loser- but in mediation, that unfortunate eventuality can be avoided; and that is always in the child's best interest.

Preparing for Child Custody Mediation

Before the mediation process begins, there are a few steps you should take to ensure you are prepared.

- Seek the advice of family law attorney [David Pedrazas in Salt Lake City](#), who is ***trained and experienced in divorce and custody law***. He will be able to help you *understand your rights and responsibilities*, and give you important advice on how to conduct yourself during this sensitive period of time.
- Write out your own draft of a [fair custody schedule](#). This is your opportunity to show good faith and to be proactive.
- Write a detailed description of your ***current daily schedule and your child's schedule***. This will help the mediator and the other party to plan around it. This is far *preferable* to explaining ***why*** you cannot agree to

various peculiarities of someone else's custody sharing plan.

- **Gather and organize all of the relevant paperwork** concerning your child such as school records, doctor visits, extracurricular activities and obligations, birth certificates and so on. Have these ready for reference when needed.

Steps in the Process of Child Custody Mediation

While mediation is voluntary in most states, *in Utah, parents are required to complete the mediation process before going forward.* It is in the **best interest of everyone involved** that mediation should proceed as *amicably as possible* and that custody be resolved without going to court.

- First, you will **meet with the mediator.**
- Then you and the other party will **identify and prioritize all contested issues.**
- Then each issue will be discussed with the aim of arriving at a **mutually beneficial agreement.**
- Once an agreement is reached on each contested issue, a **comprehensive draft** of the total agreement will be written and distributed to each party.

The more individual issues you and the other party need to work out, the longer mediation will take- and the more expensive it will be. **If possible, you might benefit from meeting with your former spouse before mediation begins to try to make the list of issues as concise as possible.** If such a meeting is not possible, the *mediation process is still there to support you going forward.*

Salt Lake City Child Custody Mediation Attorney David Pedrazas

Whether you and your former spouse are seeking a mediation attorney **through** your divorce or would like to **modify your child custody arrangement after** your divorce, **Utah mediation attorney, David Pedrazas** has **over 15 years of experience helping people like you through the mediation process** in the Salt Lake City area. He has **handled over 1,000 divorce and family law cases** and is ready to assist you. For more information about mediation, get in touch with the Law Office of **David Pedrazas PLLC**, today for your **free case evaluation.**