

MCS NEWSLETTER

Mediation & Conflict Solutions



Volunteers: Community Mediation Minnesota is sponsoring a remote family mediation training this fall. The cost is \$150.00 for those who commit to volunteering with Mediation & Conflict Solutions. Scholarships are available.

Training dates are:

Thursday, September 30th, Friday October 1st, Saturday, October 2nd, Friday, October 8th and Saturday, October 9th from 8am until 5pm each day. PLEASE recruit family and friends to participate! Space is limited. Please have potential volunteers contact the MCS Executive Director.



Free/optional donation continuing education opportunities are also a part of the remote family mediation training. Upon completion of any of these continuing ed courses, please notify Wendy Moore so your continuing education credits may be properly tracked.

Enrollment link:

[\[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-mediation-skills-ala-cart-tickets-162713316911\]](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-mediation-skills-ala-cart-tickets-162713316911) Sign up now for these training opportunities:

Offerings:

- Becoming More Conflict Competent Friday, Oct. 1 9am-12pm
- Harassment Court Mediation Friday, Oct. 1 2:45pm-5pm
- Issues/Needs of Children in Co-Parenting Saturday, Oct.2 8am-12pm
- Thresholds of Violence Friday, Oct. 8 8am-10:30am
- Restorative Family Conversations Friday, Oct. 8 12:45pm-1:30pm
- Elimination of Bias in Family Law Saturday, Oct. 9 8am-10am



VOLUNTEERS -
Watch for information about an upcoming
Volunteer Appreciation event!

THANK
YOU

zoom

Conducting remote mediations continues to be Mediation & Conflict Solutions' exclusive mediation format. On a monthly basis the board continues to review this policy, but for the foreseeable future it looks like mediations will continue to be remote. Regardless of the state of the pandemic, remote mediations will be part of our practice model moving forward, if you would like additional training on remote mediations, please contact Wendy Moore and more training will be arranged.



Don't forget to check us
out on social media



Tools:



Often times in dealing with communication issues between parents, clients are looking for tools to help them. On the pages that follow I am providing information about two such products for mediators to be aware of. I hope this will provide you with further tools.



Our Family Wizard is a subscription service (current cost starts at \$99/year). With features that anticipate communication needs, OurFamilyWizard (OFW) is specifically designed to reduce the stress of managing family plans across separate households. Features of OFW <https://www.ourfamilywizard.com/> (from their website) include:

Calendar

A clear view of family plans.

Confusion over scheduling causes unnecessary conflict for many families. But with the OFW® Calendar, you can trust that everyone is always on the same page. Track your parenting schedule, share appointment details, and easily submit requests for changes to parenting time.

Message Board

More than standard email or texting.

Unlike traditional email or texting, OFW® messaging creates a secure platform for communication between parents. Feel confident in your records with the knowledge that messages can never be edited, deleted, or retracted. Plus, tools like ToneMeter™ can help to commit to keeping your communication positive and productive.

Journal

A virtual diary and family album rolled into one powerful tool.

With Moments, record observations and share memories with your co-parent, or document last-minute schedule changes. Use Check-ins to verify your presence at exchanges and other locations.

Expense Log

A simpler way to manage shared expenses.

Let the OFW® Expense Log do the math for you. Track your shared parenting expenses with ease and precision, attach receipt files to each expense entry, and keep accurate payment histories. Send documented electronic payments via OFWpay™ to further simplify the management of co-parenting expenses and mitigate financial conflict.

Info Bank

Your important family information, all in one place.

Keep all of your most important family information in one safe place. The OFW® Info Bank is organized into sections for you to store medical histories, insurance information, emergency contacts, school schedules, files, photos, and more. No more hunting for the details you need when you need them.





Mobile Apps

Your family information at your fingertips.

View your parenting time calendars, document your locations, record expense histories, see emergency contact details, and more—no matter where you are. Download the details you need when you need them.

Talking Parents is a similar service that offers a free program, a standard program for \$5.99/month or a premium package for \$19.99/month. Here are features of that program from their website (<https://talkingparents.com/how-it-works>)

Accountable PaymentsSM

Accountable PaymentsSM provides the ability to keep your shared parenting expenses accounted for and on the Record. Securely send or receive money or send payment requests to your co-parent. All activity is timestamped and available within the Payments Record.

Secure & Easy Messaging


Easily create and send messages to your co-parent. Upload file attachments with your messages. Conversations follow an easy-to-read format similar to text messaging. Each message has a timestamp of when your co-parent has viewed it and when it was sent.

Accountable CallingSM

Accountable CallingSM is recorded calling between co-parents without disclosing either user's phone number. Upgrade to Premium and start a call. Premium users also have unlimited access to call transcripts and recordings.

Unalterable PDF & Printed Records

Our Records are a complete view of all communications on TalkingParents. You can order electronically certified PDF or Printed Records anytime you need them. All Records include a Digital Signature and a unique 16-digit Authentication Code that can verify the Record as genuine and that it has not been modified in any way. Your complete Messaging Record is arranged in chronological order. Your Calendar Record includes the details of every calendar event, edit, view, and deletion. Your Journal Record is a complete record of all your personal entries. Your Calling Record shows when every call was placed through TalkingParents, and Premium users have the option to include transcripts as well. Records are admissible in court and can be shared with lawyers or other professionals.





Shared Calendar

The Shared Calendar is designed to allow you to organize and coordinate events with your co-parent. Input your parenting time schedule and stay in sync with your co-parent. When you create an event, only you can edit it. You can also order a Calendar Record to get a full view of all your events, past, present, and future.

Info Library

Create cards with important information that you can keep private or share with your co-parent. Keep the details that matter all in one place. From clothing sizes to allergies, your cards can be completely customized.

*The Info Library is a Standard and Premium App Feature Only

The Vault

The Vault is a private, secure storage space for pictures, videos, and files of any kind. You can choose to add items from your Vault to send in a message with your co-parent. You can even share Vault files via email to a lawyer, mediator, or third party. The Vault is not accessible by the other parent without sharing and is not part of your Messaging, Calendar, Journal, or Calling records.

*The Vault is a Standard and Premium App Feature Only

Personal Journal

The Journal is a place to keep private notes that are not shared with your co-parent. Journal entries can be deleted at any time. You can order a copy of your Journal Record in a PDF or Printed format.

Attachments Library

Our Attachment Library allows you to easily see and download all the files you have shared with your co-parent. This is a shared feature between parents.

*Standard and Premium users have unlimited access to their Attachments Library.

