









Presentation Format

- ◆ Introduction.
- ◆ Definitions.
- ◆ The Five “W’s” of Child Protection.
Mediation.
- ◆ Questions/Answers.

4



Introduction

5



Introduction:

- ◆ Most Child Protection Mediation programs began in the 1990’s.
- ◆ Ohio is a national leader in the development and use of Child Protection Mediation.

6



Mediation Definitions and Differences

7



Definition:

Mediation is a voluntary process in which:

- A neutral person.....
- Assists parties.....
- To come to an agreement.

8



Difference:

Child Protection Mediation is a voluntary process specific to Juvenile Court in which:

- A neutral person, **usually an attorney or professional person engaged by the Juvenile Court**....
- Assists **multiple** parties....
- To come to a **specific kind of** agreement.

9



The Five “W’s” of Child Protection Mediation:

- ◆ WHO
- ◆ WHAT
- ◆ WHEN
- ◆ WHERE
- ◆ WHY



10



WHO

participates in Child Protection Mediation?



11



WHO Participates?

Generally:

- ◆ Mediator
- ◆ Mother
- ◆ Father(s)
- ◆ Agency Caseworkers
- ◆ Attorney for Child
- ◆ CASA/GAL
- ◆ Mother’s Attorney
- ◆ Father(s)’ Attorney
- ◆ Agency Attorney

12



Other Possible Participants:

- ◆ Relatives
- ◆ Relative Placement Providers
- ◆ Prospective Adoptive Parents
- ◆ Foster Parents
- ◆ Treatment Providers
- ◆ Parent Support Persons
- ◆ Domestic Violence Advocates
- ◆ *Children*

13



The number of people attending a Child Protection Mediation usually ranges from 6 to 20, though most commonly around 10 participants.

14



WHAT is discussed in Child Protection Mediation?



15



WHAT is Discussed in Child Protection Mediation?



- ◆ Status of the Child(ren)
- ◆ Possible stipulations to facts.
- ◆ Dispositional issues.

16



And More Specifically:

- ◆ Helps develop case plan services to reunify the family as soon as it is safe to do so,

OR

- ◆ To find the most suitable permanent placement for children.....
- ◆ Within statutory time frames.

17



WHAT Else?



Child Protection Mediation:

- Allows parents to participate in decision making;
- Makes sure parents understand what is happening;
- Allows parents to decide to “let go” of custody of their children with dignity.

18



WHEN
can a Child
Protection
Mediation occur?



19



Most often used after
the child welfare agency
has removed the
child(ren).

20



**Significant Events in the
Progression of Child Protection
Cases:**

Dependency/Neglect/Abuse Cases

- Agency Staffing
- ESCH
- Adjudication Hearing
- Disposition Hearing
- Agency Staffing(s)
- Reasonable Efforts Review
- Post Dispositional Review Hearing
- Annual Review Hearing
- Motion to Change Disposition Hearing
- Objections Hearing

21

Significant Events in the Progression of Child Protection Cases:

Permanency Custody (PC) Cases

- Agency Staffing
- ESCH Original PC
- PC Pre-Trial
- PC Trial



22

WHEN Can a Child Protection Mediation Occur?

- ◆ **ANYTIME** upon request
- ◆ Between significant events
- ◆ Unless screened out



23

Significant Events in D/N/A Case Progression:

▪ Agency Staffing •Mediation	▪ Reasonable Efforts Review •Mediation
▪ ESCH •Mediation	▪ Post Dispositional Review Hearing •Mediation
▪ Adjudication Hearing •Mediation	▪ Annual Review Hearing •Mediation
▪ Disposition Hearing •Mediation	▪ Motion to Change Disposition Hearing •Mediation
▪ Agency Staffing(s) •Mediation	▪ Objection Hearing •Mediation

24



Significant Events in PC Case:

- Agency Staffing
 - Mediation
- ESCH Original PC
 - Mediation
- PC Pre-Trial
 - Mediation
- PC Trial
 - Mediation

25



WHEN Does Child Protection Mediation Usually Occur:

D/N/A Case:	PC Case:
▪ ESCH	▪ ESCH or Motion to Change Disposition
▪ MEDIATION	▪ MEDIATION
▪ Adjudication / Disposition	▪ PC Pre-Trial
▪ Post-Dispositional Hearing	▪ MEDIATION
▪ MEDIATION	▪ PC Trial

26



Child Protection Screening Process:

- ◆ Custodian whereabouts unknown
- ◆ Extreme mental health issues / competency
- ◆ Pending criminal action
- ◆ Severe domestic violence issues

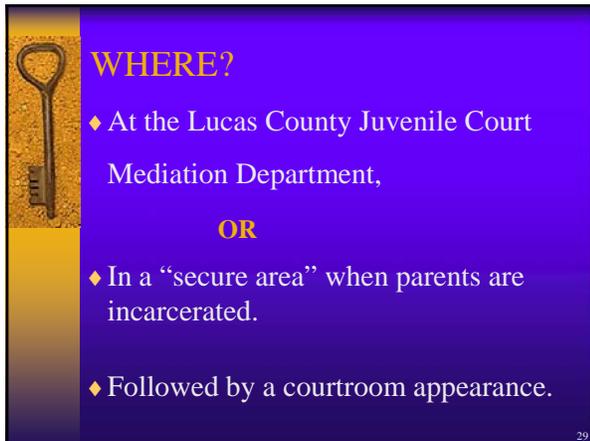
27



WHERE
does a Child
Protection
Mediation occur?



28



WHERE?

- ◆ At the Lucas County Juvenile Court Mediation Department,

OR

- ◆ In a “secure area” when parents are incarcerated.
- ◆ Followed by a courtroom appearance.

29



WHY
do we do Child
Protection
Mediation?



30



WHY?

- ◆ Expedite permanency for children;
- ◆ Improve case plans and case planning process;
- ◆ Enhance parental understanding and decision making;
- ◆ Increase effectiveness of court hearings;
- ◆ Increase compliance with court orders;
- ◆ Reduce State costs connected with D/N/A and PC cases;
- ◆ Judicial economy.

31



Mediation is Key in

Child Protection Cases

32
