

**23-3501. Mediation; defined.** Mediation under this section is the process by which a neutral mediator appointed by the court, or by a hearing officer, assists the parties in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement as to issues of child custody, residency, visitation, parenting time, division of property or other issues. The role of the mediator is to aid the parties in identifying the issues, reducing misunderstandings, clarifying priorities, exploring areas of compromise and finding points of agreement. An agreement reached by the parties is to be based on the decisions of the parties and not the decisions of the mediator.

**History:** L. 1985, ch. 147, § 1; L. 1986, ch. 138, § 2; L. 2000, ch. 171, § 5; July 1.