

## Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOUR MEETING WITH THE CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELOR (CCRC)**

**Child Custody Recommending Counselors assist parents and guardians in developing parenting plans and timeshare arrangements. The goal of the CCRC is to help parents and guardians negotiate a mutually satisfactory parenting plan for their children and to agree on rules to make the plan succeed.**

1. **Document review.** Prior to meeting with parents, a CCRC reviews relevant filings and information submitted to the Court pertaining to their referral to mediation. If you have something you would like the mediator to review, please ensure it is filed with the Court prior to mediation. During or after your session, the CCRC will advise you if additional information or documentation is required.
2. **Privacy and Disclosures.** While reasonable efforts are made to keep your contact information private, the CCRC must disclose information about your case if there is an allegation or suspicion of child abuse or neglect or if there is a belief that someone may hurt themselves or others. If the parties do not agree on a parenting plan, the CCRC will submit a report and recommendations regarding the parenting and timeshare issues involving the children. The CCRC may disclose information about the parties as necessary and will recommend orders be made in the best interest of the children. You will receive a copy of this report and you will have an opportunity to talk to the judicial officer about the contents and recommendations.
3. **Separate meetings.** Separate meetings may be requested if there are sworn allegations of domestic violence or if there is a restraining order in place that protects one party from the other.
4. **Child Custody Recommending Counseling time is limited.** The amount of time a CCRC can give to each family is limited. In addition to the CCRC session, each case may also require document review, telephone calls, report writing, and sometimes an appearance at court by the CCRC. If you want additional CCRC services, you may want to consider a private mediator and or an appropriate agency in the community
5. **Keep the appointment.** When you are scheduled, please arrive on time for your appointment. The CCRC will inform the court if a parent fails to attend the scheduled appointment without prior notice or arrangements.
6. **No private discussions.** A CCRC generally does not have private discussions with parents or their attorneys on matters related to parenting plans and timeshare arrangements unless separate appointments have been scheduled. Certain statutory exceptions apply.
7. **Children's participation.** Children are not to be brought to CCRC sessions without prior approval. A CCRC or a judicial officer will determine whether children are to be interviewed.
8. **Child abuse allegations.** A CCRC does not investigate crimes or allegations of child abuse. These issues should be referred to the police and/or child welfare agencies that conduct investigations.
9. **Enforcement of the court order.** A CCRC cannot enforce court orders or give legal advice. The court and the police deal with enforcement issues. Only attorneys can give legal advice, including advice about enforcement of court orders.