



Parenting Coordination

Frequently asked questions

How is parenting coordination different than family mediation?

Parenting coordination is a hybrid legal-mental health role that combines assessment, education, case management, conflict management, dispute resolution, and, at times, decision making. Family mediation does not have an arbitration component. Family mediation is a conflict resolution process where an impartial third party assists in resolving conflict between two or more people.

How do the qualifications differ between parenting coordinator and mediator?

A parenting coordinator must have training in arbitration, coaching, conflict management certification, child development, facilitation, family dynamics, intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, and coparenting relationships. A family mediator should have training in the mediation process.

How does the authority differ between a parenting coordinator and a mediator?

A parenting coordinator's authority may come from a court order, or parent may agree to retain the parenting coordinator on contract. A family mediator is retained on contract.

What type of legislation does the professional have to consider?

In parenting coordination, the legislation is the Alberta Family Law Act, the Divorce Act, and the Arbitration Act. In family mediation, it depends on the issues being mediated.

How long is the professional retained for?

It varies. Sometimes a parenting coordinator is retained for 6 – 24 months. A family mediator may be retained for 4 – 6 months.

What kind of document is produced after the contract has ended?

In parenting coordination, the parents receive an Award which is a legal and binding document. In family mediation, the parents receive a Mediator's Report which is non-binding. Some people take their mediator's report to their lawyer for it to be turned into a Consent Order.

Where can I get more information on parenting coordinator and family mediation?

To get more information on parenting coordination, contact the AFCC [here](#). For family mediation, contact the FMC [here](#).