

Understanding the *Confirmation of Issues* Form

WHO:

- Most parties with children need to complete a form called [Confirmation of Issues/Referral to Family Court Services](#).
- If you need to complete the form, there is a deadline in your Case Schedule for when it must be filed with the court.

WHAT:

- The form refers parties to Family Court Services, who may provide mediation or a parenting plan evaluation. There are fees for these services.
- [Mediation](#): parties are required to participate in mediation prior to going to trial, except in cases in which mediation is waived by the trial judge. Mediation is the process of trying to reach an agreement with the help of a neutral mediator. Family Court Services is one option.
- [Parenting Plan Evaluation](#): In a Family Court Services parenting evaluation, a social worker Evaluator with specialized training makes recommendations for the parenting plan after an investigation. Unless there is a court order, a parenting plan evaluation is not required, but it may provide helpful information to the court.

WHEN:

- The *Confirmation of Issues* needs to be filed with the Clerk's Office by the deadline in your case schedule.
- Mediation needs to be completed by the deadline in your case schedule.

WHERE:

- [Options for Mediation](#):
 - Private Mediator – a family law attorney may be hired as a mediator; there will be fees.
 - Family Court Services – a social worker Court Conciliator acts as a mediator; fees are on a sliding scale, depending on your income.
 - There are other programs, such as the [Volunteer Settlement Conference Program](#), that may or may not charge fees. Please see the Legal Resource List at https://kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/superior-court/docs/family/facilitator/legal_resources.aspx?la=en
- [Options for a Parenting Evaluation](#):
 - A private parenting evaluator or guardian ad litem will charge hourly rates.
 - Family Court Services has fees on a sliding scale, depending on your income.

WHY:

- Our local court rules require the *Confirmation of Issues* form and mediation. Please see King County Local Family Law Rules 4 and 16: <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/rules/Family.aspx>