

## **MEDIATION REQUIREMENT**

Mediation provides the opportunity to reach an agreement in a cooperative environment in which the parties determine the outcome of their case. Parties are generally better served when disputes are resolved amicably.

**PRIOR TO FINAL TRIAL:** Mediation is required even if the parties mediated prior to temporary orders.

### **PRIOR TO SETTING A TEMPORARY ORDERS HEARING:**

Absent good cause shown, all parties and their attorneys are required to attend mediation prior to any temporary orders hearing in which:

- 1) conservatorship and/or possession and access is at issue, or
- 2) the total time estimate for the hearing exceeds three hours.

### **APPOINTMENT OF A MEDIATOR:**

Parties may select their mediator by agreement. In the absence of mutual agreement, the Court will select a mediator.

### **INFORMAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS:**

If a reasonable agreement has been reached through mediation or through the informal settlement process set forth in Chapter Six of the Texas Family Code, Section 6.604, those reasonable agreements will be honored by the Court.