

**MONTANA LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION
REFERRAL AGREEMENT FOR ASSISTANCE FOR MEDIATION**

The situation to be handled: I, _____, agree that Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) will help me with the following: I want to participate in mediation regarding a divorce and/or parenting plan case I am involved in. The case is already filed in or will be filed in the Montana courts.

By providing this service: MLSA will determine if I am eligible for free mediation services and legal assistance from an attorney, through the Montana Family Transition Project. MLSA will ask me about my income and property to determine if I am eligible. If the other person in my court case also applies, MLSA also will determine if that person is eligible. If we both apply and one of us is eligible, MLSA will refer each of us to separate private attorneys. The private attorneys will provide legal advice about mediation. MLSA also will assign our case to a mediator and refer me to a consultant to calculate child support.

1. MLSA will not represent me as an attorney, nor will MLSA provide legal advice.
2. If I am eligible, I will not have to pay MLSA, the attorney or the mediator. MLSA will pay my attorney, the attorney for the other person in the case, and the mediator.
3. MLSA refers cases to private attorneys for legal advice based on a rotating schedule.
4. MLSA will ask me to provide my contact information, such as my address, my telephone number, and my email address. MLSA will ask the other person in the case for their contact information. MLSA will provide each person's contact information to that person's attorney.
5. MLSA may have to report information about this case to its funder. MLSA will not report my name or address if I will be physically harmed by the disclosure. I will tell MLSA if I believe that reporting my name and address to the funder will put me in danger.
6. MLSA must report back to the judge on the status of my application. MLSA will tell the judge that the case could not be referred to the mediation project for either of two reasons:
 - the other person in the court case does not apply with MLSA, or
 - the other person also applies, but MLSA determines that neither one of us is eligible for services.MLSA will not disclose to the judge any specific information unless the judge orders MLSA to do so.
7. If I am concerned about how MLSA handles this referral, I can ask any MLSA staff member for a copy of MLSA's Grievance Procedure.

Regarding the free legal advice offered through the Family Transition Project:

- ☐ I would like to receive legal advice from an attorney prior to mediation
 - ☐ I do not want to be referred to an attorney at this time
 - ☐ I currently have an attorney representing me and do not need free legal advice. This is my attorney's name and contact information: _____
- _____.

I have read this agreement, or have had it explained to me, and I understand and agree to its terms.

Date: _____ Signed (*Applicant*): _____

Date: _____ Signed (*MLSA*): _____

I AM A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

Signature

Date