




What happens during mediation?

- A mediator will help guide a conversation between the two parties and help them work toward an agreement.
- Mediation will begin within 14 days after the mediator is assigned. You will meet at a time and place you both agree on.
- If an agreement is reached, it will be put in writing. Everyone will sign it and it will become legally binding.

Who are the Birth to 3 Program mediators?


Birth to 3 Program mediation is provided by Pionek Valle Law Group, LLC. They are a neutral provider of the intake, screening, and mediation referral process.

For more information on possible mediators, visit:



wsems.us/mediators/ 

More questions?

More information about Birth to 3 Program mediation is available on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website:

 dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm

You can also contact Pionek Valle Law Group, LLC:

 gja@wsems.us  414-241-5535

Service Coordinator

County Birth to 3 Program Coordinator



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

P-23117 (12/2023)

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Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Mediation System

Disagreements can happen.

Do you have a concern or disagreement about services or decisions made by the Birth to 3 Program?

If talking to the team didn't help fix it, **the Birth to 3 Program Mediation System can help!**



What is mediation?

- Mediation is when a neutral person called a mediator helps solve disagreements between two parties.
- For the Birth to 3 Program, it can be used when parents or caregivers and program staff don't agree on decisions about eligibility or services on the Individual Family Service Plan.
- In mediation, you have a safe place to openly share your views.
- Mediation is free, private, and voluntary. You decide if you want to use mediation or not.

How does mediation help?

- Mediation often finds a solution that everyone agrees to.
- The mediator helps come up with options but doesn't decide for you.
- You can talk openly.
- Your child still gets services from the Birth to 3 Program during mediation unless you say no.



When can I choose mediation?

You might choose mediation if you don't agree with:

- Decisions about your child's eligibility
- The evaluation process
- The services being offered
- How the services are being provided

Who can request mediation?

- Parents or caregivers
- The local Birth to 3 Program
- Both parties together

Who can participate in mediation?

- Parents and caregivers
- Two representatives from the local Birth to 3 Program
- Other parties, with the permission of both the parents or caregivers and the Birth to 3 Program representatives.

How do I request mediation?

1 First, you will fill out the Request for Mediation Form.

- Find it at dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm
- You can either fill out the form with your local Birth to 3 Program or on your own

2 Next, mail or email the form.

- **Mail the form to:**
Wisconsin Special Education
Mediation System (WSEMS)
Gia Pionek
PO Box 70693
Milwaukee, WI 53207
- **Scan and email the form to:**
gia@wsems.us

3 Last, get a mediator assigned.

- If you submit the form with signatures from parents or caregivers **and** local Birth to 3 Program staff, a mediator will be assigned right away.
- If either party submits the form individually, the other party will be contacted to see if they want to participate. They have three days to agree. If they do, then a mediator will be assigned.