Other services provided by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program include:

- Mediation for Superior Court cases.
- Mediation and arbitration services for Cochise County Justice courts in:
    - small claims cases less than $2,500.
    - civil cases less than $10,000.
- Juvenile Victim/Offender Conferences
- Limited mediation services for City Magistrate courts.

For more information about these services, please contact the ADR Office at 520-432-8483

Cochise Superior Court's Family Conciliation Court

In cases of marriage dissolution, annulment, and legal separation, the Family Conciliation Court offers conciliation services to explore whether the parties can be brought back together, and mediation services to resolve disputes about access and visitation with minor children.

For more information about these services, please contact the FCC Office at 520-432-8485.

Revised 1/2008

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
COCHISE COUNTY
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM
PO BOX 204
BISBEE, AZ 85603

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

DEPENDENCY MEDIATION

**SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
COCHISE COUNTY
PO BOX 204
BISBEE, ARIZONA 85603
PHONE: 520-432-8483
FAX: 520-432-8487**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Dependency Mediation Program provides trained mediators to assist in settling disputes between the child's parents, Child Protective Services (CPS), and the judicial system regarding child abuse, neglect, or other issues concerning the child's well-being.

Mediation in dependency issues can help parents, CPS investigators, attorneys, Child Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers and others involved reach agreements about the allegations that are acceptable to everyone and are in the best interest of the child or children.

Mediation attempts to bring out the wide variety of interests and concerns of all the involved parties related to the child or children, and to establish a working relationship which promotes a productive resolution of the issues relating to the child or children and the family.

ADVANTAGES

Mediation allows the parties to work cooperatively to resolve the outcome of the disputed allegations.

When requested, flexible times for mediations can help eliminate the loss of time and or salary from work.

MEDIATION IS:

- An informal meeting of the involved parties.

- Held in a neutral setting, with a neutral facilitator.

- A way to resolve disputes surrounding the child's well-being.

THE MEDIATOR'S ROLE:

- As a neutral facilitator, the mediator will guide the discussion between the parties.

- Mediators do not determine who is right or wrong, nor do they place blame.

- Mediators are not judges. They do not decide the outcome of the dispute or provide advice.

- Mediators facilitate communication and understanding between the parties in attempting to reach a written agreement that is mutually acceptable.

WHO ARE THE MEDIATORS?

Our mediators are volunteers from the community who are trained in effective communication skills and child welfare issues. Each is appointed and certified by the Presiding Judge of Cochise County.

AS A PARTY TO A DEPENDENCY CASE:

The judge will automatically refer your case to mediation to facilitate a discussion between the involved parties about the allegations contained within the dependency petition.

Upon referral to the ADR Program by a Superior Court Judge, the ADR Office will schedule a date, time and location for the mediation, and notify you of that information by mail.

During the mediation, you'll be asked to participate in good faith; to respond to the issues contained in the allegation; and to contribute toward reaching an agreement surrounding the circumstances alleged in the petition.

The resulting agreement will be drafted and signed by all parties involved in the dispute.

At the conclusion of the dependency mediation, the written agreement will become part of the court case file.

Occasionally, involved parties may request that the judge order additional mediation services, which may be handled by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program Mediators.