



254 Pall Mall Street, Suite 200  
London, Ontario N6A 5P6



Connecting Children's Aid  
Societies with ADR Professionals  
in the South West Region of Ontario



# Child Protection ADR

E-mail: [adr-link@lfcc.on.ca](mailto:adr-link@lfcc.on.ca)  
[www.lfcc.on.ca/adr-link](http://www.lfcc.on.ca/adr-link)

This Child Protection ADR Initiative is Funded by:  
Ministry of Children and Youth Services

ADR-LINK connects parties in dispute with an independent mediator or family group conference coordinator. None of the mediators or family group conference coordinators are employees of the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System (London Family Court Clinic, Inc.) or are affiliated with the Centre. However, all mediators are certified in child protection mediation by the Ontario Association for Family Mediation and listed on its roster and all family group conference coordinators have been trained and mentored through the George Hull Centre and listed on its roster. By participating in the ADR-LINK service, you acknowledge that the ADR service is not being provided by the Centre, and agree to hold harmless ADR-LINK and the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System (London Family Court Clinic, Inc.) for any and all claims, actions, suits, etc. brought against ADR-LINK directly or indirectly.



According to the Child & Family Services Act of Ontario, Children's Aid Societies must consider

# Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

when appropriate for child protection cases.



Three categories of ADR are prescribed:

- **Child Protection Mediation**
- **Family Group Conferencing (FGC)**
- for **First Nation** families, an ADR approach established by their band or community, or other approach deemed appropriate by them

The Ministry of Children & Youth Services funds court-related ADR services in the child protection context. In the South West Region of Ontario, those funds flow through ADR-LINK.

## What is ADR-LINK?

ADR-LINK connects Children's Aid Societies (CAS) with ADR professionals in the South West Region of Ontario. When a child protection case qualifies for ADR, the CAS contacts ADR-LINK to match the case with a qualified professional who accepts cases within that geographical area. To accomplish this, ADR-LINK maintains a roster of qualified ADR professionals accepting cases in any part of its catchment area. ADR-LINK also processes payments to the professional and collects data on the process. ADR-LINK is housed at the Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System and funded by the Ministry of Children & Youth Services.

## What about ADR for aboriginal families?

Building on existing capacity in each community, inspired by traditional processes of dispute resolution, these methods will evolve over time. This is an on-going process. Contact ADR-Link for more information. Members of First Nation communities are also welcome to use child protection mediation or family group conferencing.

## Who qualifies to be on the ADR-LINK Roster?

Anyone who is certified in Child Protection Mediation by the Ontario Association of Family Mediation and/or trained and mentored through the George Hull Centre (or accepted parallel process in another province) in Family Group Conferencing Coordination qualifies to be on the roster.

## How do I put my name on the roster?

Find an information form for the ADR-LINK roster on our web site. The process of registration for Original Dispute Resolution for First Nations is under development.

## How do I get trained in ADR?

If you are not yet qualified but are interested in CP Mediation or FGC, visit these web sites:

- Ontario Association for Family Mediation:  
[www.oafm-cpmed.ca](http://www.oafm-cpmed.ca)
- George Hull Centre:  
[www.georgehullcentre.on.ca](http://www.georgehullcentre.on.ca)

## At what rate is the ADR service compensated?

The Ministry of Children & Youth Services sets a maximum hourly rate for mediation services and a maximum hourly rate for FGC services. Provincial guidelines define the ideal targets for a maximum number of hours. Both the hourly rate and the guidelines are subject to change as our region gains experience with the ADR process.

The ADR professional is advised at the referral stage of the provincial guidelines and can decline the case if this arrangement is not acceptable.

Necessary expenses are compensated such as approved transportation, child care, meals if required for FGC, language translation, rental of meeting space for rural or remote areas, and long-distance calling.

The guideline may be exceeded for cases classified as exceptional with prior written approval from ADR-LINK.

## How does ADR-LINK assign cases?

ADR-LINK consults the roster to identify professionals accepting cases in the geographic area. Cycling through the roster, ADR professionals are contacted about availability to take the case in a timely way. Some basic information about the case is available to them (e.g., number of parties, special issues such as need for language interpretation). Factors considered in the matching are: proximity, availability, skill set required (e.g., languages spoken), potential conflicts of interest, knowledge of local resources and preference of parties.



## What are my responsibilities as an ADR professional?

As a child protection ADR professional who accepts a case, you are expected to:

- screen the case for suitability for your ADR technique
- inform the Society if it is not an appropriate referral
- seek and attain informed consent from all parties
- undertake tasks associated with arranging the meeting(s)
- arrange for transportation, child care and/or meals as required
- engage in the ADR process
- inform ADR-LINK if the number of hours has met the provincial guideline but the case is not finished
- create a summary document as appropriate for the technique
- distribute feedback forms to participants
- complete a feedback form for ADR-LINK
- submit receipts for all expenses
- submit an itemized bill for the ADR services

In addition, you must have or arrange a suitable neutral location for the ADR session(s).

# Qualifying for CP-ADR through ADR-LINK

ADR can be used in many cases for many issues. However, to qualify for the MCYS funding available through ADR-LINK, there must be a clear decision made by the Society that a court intervention is being considered, is pending or is in process. ADR-LINK serves the nine Societies in the South West Region of Ontario, specifically:

- Children's Aid Society of the County of Bruce
- Chatham-Kent Children's Services
- Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex
- Children's Aid Society of Owen Sound and the County of Grey
- Children's Aid Society of Oxford County
- Family & Children's Services of St. Thomas and Elgin County
- Huron Perth Children's Aid Society
- Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society
- Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society

**That court intervention could be for any of these reasons:**

- Supervision order (new application or status review)
- Society wardship
- Crown wardship
- Adoption openness arrangement

**The court application is contested by one or all parties (or will be when it is launched).**

**Notice is given to the Office of the Children's Lawyer that a referral for ADR is being made.**

**All key parties freely consent to consider ADR.**

**All parties understand they can terminate the ADR process (or their role in it) at any time.**



## For more information

or to make a referral, contact:

**Dawn Lashbrook**, Manager of ADR-LINK

Tel: 519-679-7250, ext 150

Cell: 519-282-0349

Fax: 519-679-4234

Pamphlets in this series are:

- Child Protection ADR
- Family Group Conferencing
- Child Protection Mediation
- First Nations ADR/ODR
- Accessing ADR-LINK