



Comparison of ADR Methods in the South West Region of Ontario

(for court-involved voluntary ADR)



	Child Protection Mediation	Family Group Conferencing	Aboriginal Approaches
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents Referring CAS Worker and sometimes Supervisor Other involved parties OCL Older Children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents Referring CAS Worker & Supervisor Extended Family Children Friends Service Providers (e.g., teacher, coach, pastor, etc) OCL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents Referring CAS Worker & Supervisor Extended Family, Children Friends Service Providers (e.g., teacher, coach, pastor, etc) Band Reps, Elders and other invited guests Representatives of on-reserve child welfare or prevention agencies OCL
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wording on a Supervision Order Cultural Misunderstanding Breakdown in communication between CAS and parent(s) Plan for the child Details around adoption openness order Generally seen as personal matter Related to addressing dispute(s)/conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for safety and permanency of the child Details around adoption openness agreement Generally seen as family matter Adjustments to access for Crown wardship youth Re-integration to family for a child that has been a Crown ward Communication challenges between CAS and parents Development of family plan for supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wording on a Supervision Order Cultural Misunderstanding Addressing communication between CAS and parent(s) Plan for safety and permanency of the child Details around adoption openness order Plans for a customary care arrangement Plans to re-integrate into the community a child who has been in foster care off-reserve
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roster member of the Child Protection Mediation Roster maintained by the Ontario Association of Family Mediators Independent of decision making No prior involvement with case/family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roster member of the Family Group Conference Coordinator Roster maintained by the George Hull Centre Independent of decision making No prior involvement with case/family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Approaches practitioner as endorsed by the community. May also be Family Group Conference coordinator, Child Protection mediator or other professional with specialized cultural training
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator meets privately with parties Process is voluntary Organizes the mediation process Takes an active role in facilitating communication during the process Ensures safety of participants May make suggestions, but does not make decisions. Ensures that protection concerns are met Once an agreement is reached, the facilitator will work with all parties to put the agreement in writing. Multiple CPM techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Model Coordinator meets with family members; works toward widening the family circle and informal support network Process is voluntary Prepares all participants for what will take place at the conference and ensures safety of all participants Advises family of the bottom lines Plans conference day and ensures all participants feel welcome, safe and understand how the process works. Coordinator, CAS Staff and all service providers leave during private family time, during which time family drafts a plan Coordinator reviews plan to ensure protection concerns are met Plan is then reviewed by CAS and CAS accepts the plan if it meets bottom lines as provided by Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process is unique to each community and is typically based on healing circle or talking circle practices and may incorporate elements of Family Group Conferencing or Child Protection Mediation Process is voluntary Facilitator will incorporate traditions and ceremonies according to family preferences. If the plan is within the parameters of the 'bottom line' of the agency, CAS worker and supervisor will implement the next steps (e.g., amend any court application accordingly)"
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intake appointments 2 – 3 joint sessions over a period of several weeks or months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of participants over a period of several weeks (usually 6 – 8 weeks) 1 day of conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process may occur over the course of several weeks or months and is responsive to guidance of community, elders, etc.