



# Comparison of ADR Methods in the South West Region of Ontario

(for court-involved voluntary ADR)



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