



## ADR-LINK

### What is ADR-LINK?

ADR-LINK connects families involved in child protection matters with Children's Aid Societies to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practitioners in the South Region of Ontario. When a child protection case qualifies for ADR, the CAS makes a referral with the families consent to ADR-LINK who then matches the referral with a qualified professional. To play this role as broker, ADR-LINK maintains a roster of qualified ADR professionals. Practitioners are qualified through the George Hull Centre, Ontario Association of Family Mediation or recognized by First Nation or Indigenous communities to practice ADR.

There are four prescribed methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) available through ADR-LINK:

- Child Protection Mediation,
- Original Dispute Resolution/Indigenous Approaches,
- Family Group Conferencing,
- And the 4<sup>th</sup> Option/Other.

The following is a list of the Children's Aid Society agencies and First Nation communities ADR-LINK serves:

- Bruce-Grey
- Chatham-Kent
- Elgin-St. Thomas
- Huron-Perth
- London-Middlesex
- Oxford
- Sarnia-Lambton
- Windsor-Essex
- Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Chippewas of Sarnia)
- Caldwell First Nation
- Chippewas of Nawash First Nation
- Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
- Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- Delaware Nation Moravian of the Thames
- Munsee Delaware Nation
- Oneida Nation of the Thames
- Saugeen First Nation
- Walpole Island First Nation

### How Can I Access Services?

Any family that is involved in a child protection matter involving the Children's Aid Society where there is a possibility of going to court or there is already court involvement, may fit the criteria to participate in ADR. Participants may include family, extended family, community supports, legal representatives, OCL (Office of the Children's Lawyer), Elders, Chiefs, Band Representatives and other supports.

Referrals to ADR-LINK are made through the Children’s Aid Society with consent from the family and/or caregivers and any children 12 and over. You may contact ADR-LINK at any time for further information about accessing services or if you have questions about how to talk with your CAS worker about making a referral.

### What is the Process?

Each method of ADR (Child Protection Mediation, Family Group Conferencing, Indigenous Approaches and the 4<sup>th</sup> option) has their own unique processes. The length of process can vary depending on the type of ADR method and nature of the referral. Practitioners require time to consult and prepare participants as part of the ADR process. After the initial consultation the Practitioner will be able to estimate how long your particular process will take. Typically, the ADR process requires less time than the court process.

### What is the Cost?

ADR-LINK is funded by the Ministry of Children & Youth Services to provide ADR to families, Children’s Aid Societies and First Nation communities at no cost to the participants. Additional costs associated with the ADR process are approved on a case by case basis.

