

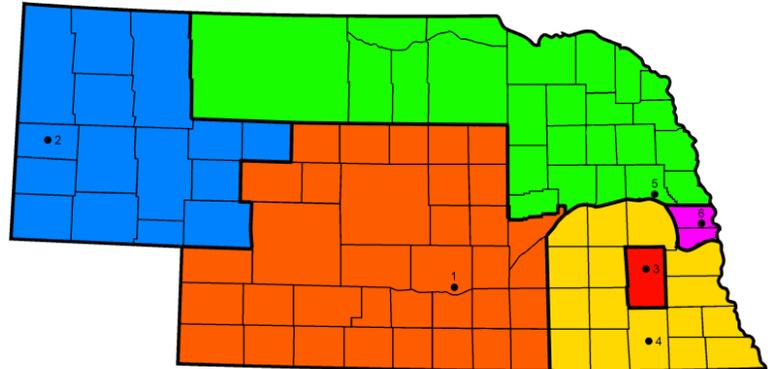


Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution

Parenting Act Mediated Cases

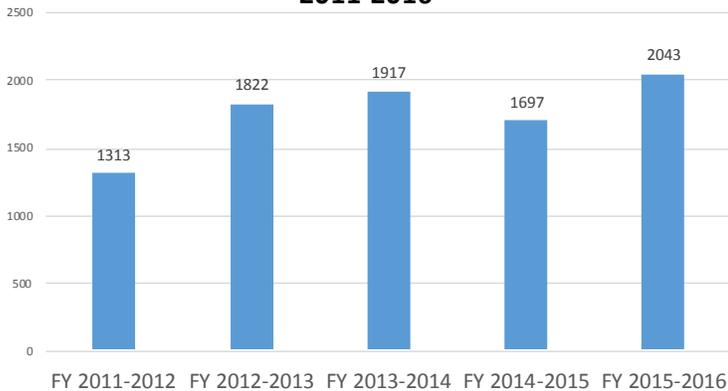
Five Years in Review: July 2011 – June 2016

Nebraska's ODR-approved mediation centers (see map) handle a variety of mediation cases, with over half of the cases encountered as parenting plan cases. In 2015/16, 54% (2486/4624) of cases opened were parenting plan cases. Parenting plans include details on how parenting responsibilities after separation or divorce will be allocated to ensure all needs of the children are met. These cases require special attention as each parenting plan formed must comply with the Nebraska Parenting Act. In doing so, mediators help parents keep their focus on the best interest of their children while ensuring a neutral and safe environment for each parent to address their concerns.



- 1. Central Mediation Center (Kearney)
- 2. Mediation West (Scottsbluff)
- 3. The Mediation Center (Lincoln)
- 4. The Resolution Center (Beatrice)
- 5. Nebraska Mediation Center (Fremont)
- 6. Concord Mediation Center (Omaha)

Closed Parenting Plan Cases at Nebraska ODR-approved Mediation Centers: 2011-2016



In general, the number of parenting plan cases the centers have handled has been increasing over the last few years. Since 2011 there has been a 55% increase in parenting plan cases closed at the centers. In the last fiscal year (15/16), 610 of the parenting plan cases closed by the centers were mediated resulting in a full or partial agreement, enabling parents to navigate through a difficult transition in their family's future as to how to proceed with parenting their children. Areas which are not agreed upon or cases that come to no agreement are forwarded on to their lawyers or court to complete a parenting plan.

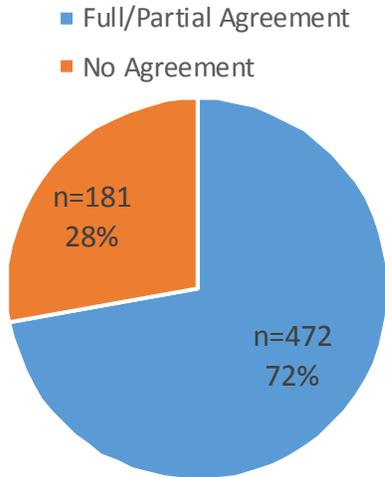
Mediation is informal and confidential; the process strives to help parents work through difficult emotions in order to focus on their children's futures. The process can improve parent communication as well as problem solving skills which benefits both the parents and children in the long run. Parenting Plan Mediation can be approached through two processes: Joint Parenting Plan Mediation and Specialized Alternative Dispute Resolution. Before mediation starts, the mediation centers help parents choose which process best fits their family's needs. In both processes, mediators do not make parenting decisions, but rather work with the parents to do so.

Contact Information:

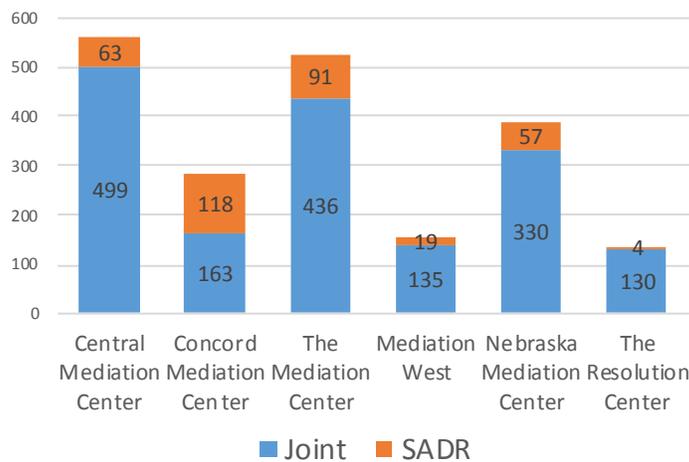
- Central Mediation Center (Kearney):** (308) 237-4692
- Concord Mediation Center (Omaha):** (402) 345-1131
- The Mediation Center (Lincoln):** (402) 441-5740
- Mediation West (Scottsbluff):** (308) 635-2002
- Nebraska Mediation Center (Fremont):** (402) 753-9415
- The Resolution Center (Beatrice):** (402) 223-6061

- Website: www.centralmediationcenter.com
- Website: www.concord-center.com
- Website: www.themediationcenter.org
- Website: www.mediationwest.org
- Website: www.nebraskamediationcenter.com
- Website: www.theresolutioncenter.org

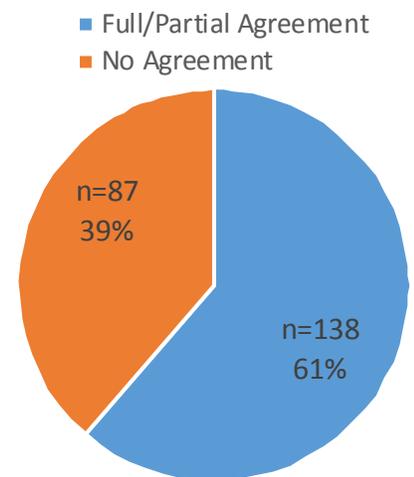
Outcomes of Joint Closed Cases FY 2015-2016



Number of Parenting Act Cases Closed at Nebraska ODR-approved Mediation Centers: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



Outcomes of SADR Closed Cases FY 2015-2016



Joint Parenting Plan Mediation

Most parenting plan cases are approached through parenting plan mediations. These mediations allow both parents to sit down and jointly decide what type of plan will best fit their families needs. During mediation, mediators are able to ask the “what if” questions to help prepare parents for situations they might not think of on their own. Mediators also ensure that parents discuss each requirement of the parenting plan set forth by the Parenting Act.

In total, the six centers completed 653 parenting plan mediations with 72% of these cases coming to a full or partial agreement, as seen on the pie chart.

Specialized Alternative Dispute Resolution

When parenting plan cases are not mediated jointly, they are approached through Specialized Alternative Dispute Resolution (SADR) facilitation. Parenting plan case facilitators meet with parents individually to discuss child-centered wants and needs. They also develop clear and safe plans for future communication and transitions of children. SADR facilitators encourage each parent to express themselves privately while maintaining equal input into the parenting plan.

The six centers have mediated 225 SADR cases altogether bringing 61% of these cases to a full or partial agreement, as seen on the pie chart.

Parenting Plan Mediation Case Study

“This case was referred to mediation by the District Court. These parents were never married and did not have any previous agreements. They had one child, who had special needs. Dad had not been a regular presence in the child’s life after and had not regularly cared for the child, but when the child was 4, he decided he wanted to become more involved. He had married and wanted to include the child with his new family. Mom was hesitant because she felt he did not know how to care adequately for the child. Through negotiation in mediation, they were able to agree to a plan to increase his time gradually. They also agreed to various living environment arrangements to ensure safety, including providing a time that mom and dad could have a “walk through” of the other’s residence.”

- The Resolution Center

SADR Facilitation Case Study

“The Mediation Center received a call from a dad that they had been court ordered to mediate. These parents were divorcing. They had one child. In the midst of their separation, one parent moved an hour outside of Lincoln. The mediator met with each parent individually and determined that, because there was intimidation and a history of domestic violence in the relationship, these parents would meet on separate days in a SADR process. Individual sessions were scheduled with each parent during which each worked to create his/her version of a plan they felt would meet their interests and the best interests of the child. After each parent created a plan as an option, the discovered their plans, and what they would be willing to agree to, were not that far apart. They were able to create a holiday plan and agree that the child would go to school in Lincoln. The mediator met with each parent four (4) times after which they took the parenting plan to their attorneys to complete their financials.”

- The Mediation Center