

## **Brief Overview of the Alaska Court System**

### **Adult Guardianship/Conservatorship Mediation Program**

**1. What is the program?**

The program provides a resource for judicial officers, parties and interested persons in adult guardianship and conservatorship cases. Upon referral from the judicial officer, the program provides a trained mediator to work with all parties.

**2. Where is the program?**

This program is available in the following courts: Anchorage; Kenai; Homer; Palmer; Valdez; Dillingham; Kodiak; Fairbanks; Bethel. Contact Program Coordinator regarding referrals from other courts as the program can pay for mediators to travel to provide services as funds permit.

**3. When to refer**

- At any stage in a case in which a petition is filed (may file request with petition).
- Cases in which a domestic violence restraining order is in effect between persons mediating may **NOT** be referred (Probate Rule 4.5)

**4. How to refer (Court Form MED-105)**

Any party may request, or judicial officer may initiate.

**5. Issues to refer**

- Is a guardian/conservator needed
- How to balance autonomy/independence/self-determination and safety
- The type or level of care or assistance that might be needed
- Who should provide services or care, or be guardian/conservator
- Communication/Information sharing/decision-making concerns
- Authority to make decisions
- Family disputes and impediments to decision-making
- Financial decisions and concerns
- Living arrangements
- Health/Medical care concerns and decisions
- Needs of other family members and caregivers
- Post-appointment issues

**6. Cost**

There is no cost to the parties for the services of the mediator.

**7. A few other things to know**

Mediation is confidential (i.e., the mediator will not make recommendations to the court) and voluntary (i.e., the parties are free to discontinue mediation at any time).

**8. Questions?**

The program coordinator is Karen Largent. Please contact Karen with questions. Phone: 1-907-264-8236; Email: [klargent@courts.state.ak.us](mailto:klargent@courts.state.ak.us)

Program information including brochure, Mediation Request Form and Confidentiality and Mediation Agreement are on the court's mediation web page: <http://www.state.ak.us/courts/mediation.htm#b>