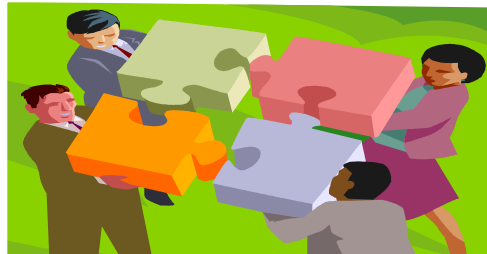


JUVENILE COURT MISSION STATEMENT

To protect the best interests of the child and the community, to restore the lives of children who have been neglected or abused, to re-direct children who have admitted to or have been found in violation of the law to become law abiding, productive citizens, and to support the continuity of families by leaving children in their homes whenever possible.



Desiree Sutton Peagler, Chief Judge
Linda Bratton Haynes, Judge
Vincent C. Crawford, Judge
Fatima A. El-Amin, Judge



For further information, please contact:

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DEKALB COUNTY JUVENILE COURT



Mediation Program

Serving the Citizens of DeKalb County
by Providing Life Changing Alternatives
To Youth Involved in the Court System



What Is Mediation

Mediation is an opportunity for the victim(s) of a crime or offense and the person(s) who committed the offense, to meet face to face. A mediator will help the parties talk about how the offense affected each of their lives. The mediators are neutral. They help people explore and negotiate their own solutions. With limited exceptions, everything said in mediation is confidential. If a mediator learns of child abuse or threats of physical harm to self or others, the mediator will report this to the appropriate agencies or individuals. If the parties can agree on a solution, the mediator can put the agreement in writing.

How does mediation help the offender?

Mediation gives the offender an opportunity to take responsibility for his/her actions by facing the victim(s) and working together to create an agreement that is acceptable to both of them. The mediation agreement allows the offender to be personally accountable for the loss, injury, or damage done against the victim.

How does mediation help the victim?

The victim gets a chance to ask questions that only the offender can answer (How and why they did it). Mediation is also an opportunity to express their frustrations and concerns. The victim works with the offender to decide on the restitution needed to cover their losses and to make things as right as possible.

Do I have to go to mediation?

Mediations with the DeKalb County Juvenile Court are court referred. Offenders must contact the program administrator when they are referred to mediation. The program administrator will tell them more about the program. The mediation will happen when all parties agree.

Do parents of an offender have to go to mediation?

Yes, parents of the offenders must attend mediation. They must sign the Waiver and Consent Form to allow the offender to participate in mediation. They provide emotional support and/or advice. The offender may need their parents' support or cooperation if the mediation agreement impacts the parents in some way. For example, a youth offender can agree to do personal or community service and they might need their parents' help for transportation.

How much does it cost?

The mediation session is free.

How long does the mediation last?

The sessions are usually 1 to 2 hours. It depends on how long the victim and offender are willing to spend on resolving the matter.

How many sessions will it take to come to an agreement?

It usually takes one session to come to an agreement. If you need more time, you and the mediator will decide when the next mediation will be.

Where are the mediation sessions held?

The sessions take place in the Juvenile Court of DeKalb County, Gregory A. Adams Juvenile Justice Center, 4309 Memorial Drive, Decatur, Georgia 30032. It is held in a private conference room. When you arrive at the court, you will wait for the court personnel to greet you in the 1st floor waiting room.

What if I do not feel safe meeting with the other person in mediation?

If anyone involved in mediation is afraid, court staff can arrange for a Deputy to be near the meeting room. If necessary, parties can be in separate rooms until they are less afraid. Please inform the Program Administrator before the date of the mediation session if you are afraid.

