



## WHAT IS FLIC?

The Family Law Information Centre (FLIC), provides free services. An Information and Referral Coordinator (IRC), is available via telephone or email from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. You may reach the IRC at **905.853.4816** and [irc@yorkhills.ca](mailto:irc@yorkhills.ca). The IRC offers community, agency information and referrals, and will offer information regarding domestic violence (DV), intimate partner violence (IPV), and child protection. For individuals who are going through separation and divorce, you may also have access to legal information, court procedures, court forms, and alternate dispute resolution information. When contacting the FLIC, you can schedule your two-hour Mandatory Information Program (MIP) and receive additional information about the MIP.

## WHAT IS Family Mediation?

Mediation is a process in which a qualified, impartial, experienced professional, the mediator, will help and support individuals come to a mutual agreement together in negotiations.

## COMPARE Settlement Options

### FAMILY MEDIATION (negotiations)

Is a private and confidential process

Both individuals make decisions in the best interest of everyone involved with guidance and support from the Mediator

**Is time effective and affordable**

Outcomes are decided by both individuals and are provided a non-legal document called a Mediation Report which can become part of the settlement

Appointments are determined by both individuals and the Mediator

Mediation is non-combative, a "win/win" approach

Satisfaction with the mediation process is statistically high and beneficial

### FAMILY LITIGATION (going to court)

vs. Is a public process

vs. The judge makes all decisions, final or temporary

vs. **Can take months and years to reach a settlement and is very costly**

vs. Outcomes are decided by a judge, and the individuals are provided an Endorsement then a Court Order

vs. Court appearances are set by the courts or by a lawyer

vs. Litigation is combative, a "win/lose" approach

vs. Satisfaction with the court process is statistically low and stressful

### York Hills Family Mediation and Information Services

Family Law Information Centre (FLIC)  
 Courthouse in Newmarket, Ontario  
 50 Eagle Street West  
 T: 905.853.4816  
 E: [irc@yorkhills.ca](mailto:irc@yorkhills.ca)  
[www.yorkhills.ca/services/mediation](http://www.yorkhills.ca/services/mediation)



## Family Mediation and Information Services (YH FMIS)



We prioritize the well-being of the children and promote the success of individuals who are going through separation and divorce by providing a safe and supportive platform for discussions. We offer community resource information for individual specific needs, and access to subsidized family mediation.

## WHY CHOOSE

# Family Mediation with YH FMIS?

Mediation supports individuals to problem-solve their family issues cooperatively and safely.

It is a cost-effective, flexible, and impartial alternative to going to court. FMIS Mediators can assist with financial matters and developing parenting time schedules.

The Mediator may offer ideas and suggestions to establish common ground and facilitate negotiations for both individuals to reach the best possible arrangements for everyone involved. The Mediator keeps the focus on suitable outcomes for the best interest of the child(ren) and helps each individual move forward with structure and confidence.

## HOW LONG will mediation take?

The length of the mediation depends on the individuals, and on factors such as the number of issues being discussed during conversation and the desire to work cooperatively to reach agreements.

## WHERE WILL THE sessions be held?

Mediations can be held in a hybrid setting of virtual or in person.

## HOW MUCH DOES mediation cost?

The hourly fee is subsidized by the Ministry of Attorney General, fees can be decreased or waived in certain situations.

## FAMILY MEDIATION IS:

- Voluntary
- Confidential
- Affordable and Subsidized
- Fast & Flexible
- Child-focused

## MEDIATION CAN help resolve issues such as:

- Decision-making Responsibility
- Parenting Time and Schedules
- Child Support, Section 7 Expenses/  
Extra Curricular Activities
- Contact Orders
- Property Division
- Spousal Support

## DO I need a lawyer?

We strongly recommend you review any proposed agreements with a family lawyer. It is important for you to understand your legal rights and responsibilities; therefore, we highly recommend you seek independent legal advice before, during, and after the mediation process. The YH FMIS members will not provide you with legal advice at any time during the mediation process.

## WHAT IS THE Mandatory Information Program (MIP)?

**When you begin the court process in family court, the individuals must attend the Mandatory Information Program (MIP).**

The MIP is a two-hour session that provides, information about the effects of separation, divorce, and relationship breakdown on children and adults. The session will inform the individuals about the family court process, local community resources, programs, webinars, and alternate dispute resolution methods.

You must attend your individual MIP session via ZOOM before the matter can come before a judge. Following receiving your MIP notice from the court or from your lawyer, you must contact the Information and Referral Coordinator (IRC) to schedule or confirm your MIP session date. The IRC can be reached at, **905.853.4816** and **irc@yorkhills.ca**.

After you attended the MIP, the MIP coordinator will complete your MIP certificate of attendance, then email you the signed document.

If you do not have a lawyer you must file the certificate through the online filing portal, **www.ontario.ca/familyclaims**. In the event, you have a lawyer you should forward the signed MIP certificate to your lawyer.

The MIP is intended for Applicants and Respondents involved with family court proceedings, although, **you do not have to be involved in a family court case to attend the MIP.**

