

How does mediation help solve a Visitation or Custody Dispute?

- Mediation brings people together, face to face.
- The mediation sets ground rules and controls the process to ensure respectful talk, safe for everyone.
- Mediators help build trust.
- Mediation becomes a sounding board, allowing parties some healthy venting, and enabling everyone to understand issues and interests.
- Mediators provide a reality check (considering the impact on the child(ren) if this dispute drags on into the future.

Screening for Domestic Violence

Inafa' Maolek's case manager routinely screens mediation referrals for domestic violence. In some cases mediation may be dangerous for a victim of abuse. There is also evidence that in some cases involving partner abuse, mediation has been effective.

What is Inafa' Maolek?

Inafa' Maolek is a non-profit organization on Guam dedicated to teaching and promoting conflict resolution. It was founded in 1982 by Attorney Patrick M. Wolff in an effort to foster communication so that legal intervention could be avoided. After receiving training in conflict management, the small group of volunteers began mediating private and court-ordered cases.

Since then Inafa' Maolek has branched out into several areas. Aside from court and private mediations, they now conduct workshops, teach peer mediation, offer college courses, hold conferences, and numerous other activities that advance our mission of peace.

Award Winning Organization

In 2000, Inafa' Maolek won the Guam Association of Social Workers' Community Service Award. Additionally, Inafa' Maolek received the 2002 Humanities Community Organization of the Year from Guam Humanities Council. The membership has also grown and derives strength from its diversity, encompassing all ages, races and walks of life.

Data on Visitation Mediations conducted for Superior Court

Over the last four years, we have mediated over 100 cases (CS/DM) involving visitation disputes. Approximately 70% of the referred cases reach agreement in mediation.

Inafa' Maolek



Mediation of Visitation / Custody Disputes

Contact Inafa' Maolek

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Monday –Friday
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Facts about Mediation by Inafa' Maolek

- It is VOLUNTARY throughout the mediation process
- It is CONFIDENTIAL. Mediation is private, and you can confide in the mediator.
- It is INEXPENSIVE (compared to litigation and the costs of an ongoing dispute).
- It is NON-BINDING until such time as the parties reach an agreement to settle the case (or part thereof). Their agreement can be made part of the court's order.
- ATTORNEYS: Parents may participate in mediation without an attorney. In most visitation cases, attorneys do not attend mediations. In custody disputes, attorneys do sometimes attend but the parents continue to participate actively.
- It saves TIME.
- It WORKS: More than 2/3 of the parties who cooperate in the mediation process settle their differences.
- It is an INFORMAL climate that encourages both parents to express their concerns.
- OLDER CHILDREN may be INCLUDED in the mediation.

Note: Mediation is not just talking... mediation is productive talking.

Facts about Inafa' Maolek Mediators

- Inafa' Maolek mediators are GUAM residents. There is NO expense of airfare or per diem for hiring a third party neutral from off-island.
- Inafa' Maolek uses a co-mediator model (you get two for the price of one).
- Inafa' Maolek mediators are well trained and scrutinized by Inafa' Maolek certification standards.
- Inafa' Maolek has a pool of mediators, mostly lay persons and a few law trained, with experience in many professions including counseling, business, and engineering.
- Mediators will not decide your case, but will empower and assist you to resolve your own case collaboratively.
- Scheduling: Mediations are scheduled by the Inafa' Maolek case manager at a time suitable for the parents and the co-mediators.

Mediation Fees

Although the court pays for mediation when it is court ordered by a judge in an access and visitation case, the parents must pay \$150.00 each when it is a private referral. A mediation session normally last one and a half/two and a half hours. If the parents decide to have a second mediation session there may be an added fee, but many cases settle after one session.

Purpose

Inafa' Maolek's VISITATION MEDIATION program is dedicated to serving the best interests of children through quality mediation services. Children's interests are best served when parents work cooperatively.

Inafa' Maolek helps parents resolve visitation disputes without formal court intervention. In most cases children's needs are best served by visitation with the non-custodial parent.

Parents are encouraged to work out their differences so that children are not pressured to choose between their parents.

