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## DESCRIPTION OF CSI'S DOMESTIC CONCILIATION

- DC Phase I (DC Mediation Phase)
  - Preparation for DC including:
    - For each DC, CSI contacts parties by phone or email and briefly explains the DC process they have been ordered into. Further actions performed during this call include:
      - If allowable by Court, scheduling of individual intake meetings (in person or Zoom)
      - Scheduling of joint DC mediation followed by
      - Sending of complete DC package via email or if necessary, mail including:
        - Introduction and explanation letter regarding the DC process and appointments
        - Agreement to DC with signature lines for all involved parties
        - Intake Form (a comprehensive online form providing information relevant to 23-3203)
        - The DC Court order
        - CSI's ADR brochure with more information re the DC process
        - CSI's Fee Schedule & Payment Information
  - Review of Completed Intake Documentation
  - If applicable, individual Intake Meeting with each Party
  - Joint DC Mediation
  - Writing of DC Agreements if full agreements are reached.
- DC Phase II (DC Investigation Phase)
 

Using the Kansas Supreme Court Statutes, specifically 23-3203, CSI conducts its DC Investigations with the 18 relevant topics in mind that need to be answered and determined and is following the sequence below in its process:

  - Request of References, Releases and Relevant Information i.e.:
    - Releases to speak with therapists
    - Releases to speak with educators in school districts - we have a great relationship with USD 259 and many other school districts and received full endorsement to include information from teaching personnel in our DC reports.
  - Review of Relevant Information of i.e.:
    - Drug/Alcohol treatment records, if applicable
    - Psychological assessments, if applicable
  - Interview of References Provided with i.e.:
    - People of significance around the child/children like teachers, counselors, family and friends of the co-parents, coaches and others as the need arises
  - Analysis of Findings from Records and Interviews
  - Potential Further Interviews of Relevant Parties depending on Analysis

Note: Sometimes the parties have reached almost all agreements and only minor recommendations are needed that do not necessitate an investigation. In that case, we may reduce Phase II steps in order to keep overall DC cost as low as possible.
- DC Phase III (DC Recommendation Phase)
 

After a complete investigation based on the Kansas Supreme Court Statutes, specifically 23-3203, CSI will formulate a written recommendation by following the sequence below:

  - Analysis of Complete Information Research
  - Writing of Recommendations to the Court

- Submission of Completed Investigation and Recommendations to Court, Attorneys and Parties
- As with all ADR work, CSI continuously screens for Domestic Violence and if necessary, reports its suspicions to the appropriate government entities.
- Quality and Efficiency of the DC Process
  - An Inclusive Approach – The Court may order 3, 4 or more DC mediation topics and check the box “Other co-parenting issues that may arise during the DC” or “Other issues, specifically...” From our experience in Co-Parent Coaching and Parent Coordination, we understand that what usually got the parties to struggle with co-parenting is not always what is being Court-ordered in the DC process, yet that what was ordered is essential to co-parenting and to moving forward. Understanding the correlation between what is being ordered and what caused the co-parenting issues in the first place that led to the DC order is one of CSI’s major strengths. For DC agreements or an MOU to be successful, the underlying challenges have to be addressed in order for the parties to not be right back to Court with further issues. In every case, CSI’s DCs assess the need for what agreements have to be in place besides what the Court has specifically ordered and if the “Other issues...” box has been checked, CSI will facilitate the additional agreements that will give the co-parents the understanding and base for better co-parenting in order to keep them out of Court and jointly find solutions or to truly co-parent
  - The correlation of depth and long-term application of DC results often stand in direct opposition to efficiency and lower price. Yet there is a very fine line, and our aim is to provide long-term solutions to issues and underlying issues that prevent parents from effectively, lovingly and logically co-parenting together and to empower them with agreements that were derived from a place of mutual understanding that a joint approach is a better approach that benefits their child or children. Should complete agreements not be possible in phase I, our aim will remain the same for the quality of our recommendations and ensure that once an investigation has been concluded, recommendations are factually based and therefore not a surprise to the co-parents. In both scenarios (after phase I or phase III), we strive to personally or virtually meet with both parties to present the contents of the final document to ensure that once the document reaches Court, it is not disputed. In short, CSI strives to create the best sustainable outcomes at the lowest long-term cost for the parties, county and state.
    - Over a period of 24 months in different counties, CSI has an approximate 90 percent success rate to have DC cases resolve in Stage I (Joint Mediation Stage) of the DC process.
    - During the past six years in all counties served, CSI has only handled one (2) domestic mediations (not DC mediation) that were solely conducted in a caucus format. Regardless of the initial level of conflict, CSI has been able to bring one hundred percent of DC parties together in joint DC mediation(s).
    - CSI Currently has 5 Kansas Supreme Court certified Domestic Conciliators who are also certified as Core Mediators, Domestic Mediators and Parent Coordinators that will be able to immediately start a DC case and if necessary, jointly have multiple DC cases run simultaneously.
- DC Pricing – How and What CSI Charges for a Domestic Conciliation
 

There is a delicate balance in how much work goes into phase I (the mediation stage) of a DCs and if/when stage II triggers. We find that a little more work invested in phase I in order to find a collaboratively developed solution to all issues at hand by both co-parents (or sometimes more than two parties), will lead to greater levels of sustainable success in the long run unless it becomes clear that one or both parties are not playing fair, have deeper issues, or are not able to adequately parent and it becomes clear rather early in the process that a recommendation must be issued for the child/children to receive the best, safest and most successful co-parenting experience.