
FAMILY LAW RIPPLES

"A pebble drops, transforming the lake"



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About Family Law Ripples

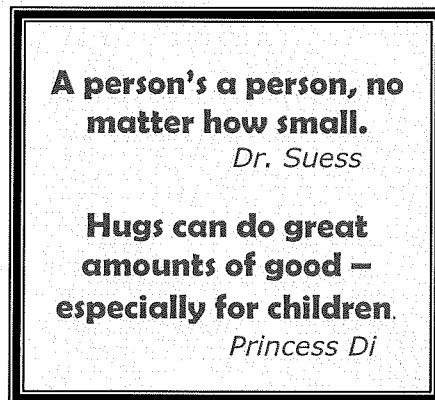
"Ripples" is a bi-monthly publication focused on legal matters affecting families. It promotes responding to family change with an eye to cooperation, connection and positive values.

Child-Inclusive Mediation

Many parents use mediation to develop a parenting plan for their children. The professional literature suggests that a child-inclusive model of mediation supports children's post-decree adjustment better than child-focused mediation.

In child-focused mediation, the parents identify the children's needs and preferences and formulate workable resolutions in the children's interests. In child-inclusive mediation, the information about what means to them and what within the family and The children's views are presented by a third children.

Child-focused mediation are (a) informed about parenting as well as two households (such as sensitive to the unique individuals and as siblings, and (c) able to separate their own interests from those of their children. It also assumes a reasonable level of consistency between the two parents as to their understanding of the above factors.



children provide the divorce or separation they need and prefer outside in the community. usually obtained and party who met with the

assumes that both parents general principles of issues for children living in child development), (b) issues of their children as

Child-inclusive mediation allows parents to hear the same information about general principles at the same time from the same resource and gives them access to information which would be otherwise difficult to obtain such as how the children are really feeling about various issues or whether their understanding of their children's interests are complete and accurate. It also has the benefit of giving a message to the children that the parents care about their thoughts and feelings and are taking them into account.

In child-inclusive mediation, parents select a psychologist with experience in divorce and custody cases to interview the children outside of the mediation sessions. The third party's report is typically informal and may be given orally. It may confirm what the parents already knew or provide new information and ideas – either way providing the basis for a parenting plan that is tailored to the children's interests.

For more information on child-inclusive mediation, see "Children in Mediation," Chap. 19, Sec. 14, Minnesota Custody and Child Support Deskbook, MN CLE (2006 and 2010 update) or sign up for the webcast "ADR and Custody Cases", May 4, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. through MN CLE

Child-focused or child-inclusive?

Bobby wants to spend more time with me. I should have more time with him.

COMPARE: Bobby is worried about this parent. He feels he should give up lacrosse so that he can spend more time with this parent, but he also says he loves lacrosse. Have you considered making lacrosse this parent's special activity with Bobby? Would you like some resources to help you learn how to reassure Bobby that he does not need to worry about you?

Susan needs a home base to give her stability and security.

COMPARE: Susan loves her rooms at both homes. She likes being able to see both of you every week. She wishes she could have her boom box with her at both houses. She seems to feel secure at both homes. How is she doing otherwise with your temporary schedule?

In the Media:

Family Court has the authority to allocate dependency exemptions between parents. Entitlement to take the dependency exemption also results in entitlement to the corresponding child credit.

When the noncustodial parent is allocated the dependency exemption, the custodial parent needs to complete forms for the I.R.S. and the Minnesota Dept. of Revenue to enable the other parent to take the exemption. The I.R.S. form can be found on the internet at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8332.pdf>. The Minnesota form can be found at www.taxes.state.mn.us .