

# RESOLVING CUSTODY OUT OF COURT

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Methods

## Mediation

**Explanation:** A mediator helps parents reach an agreement.

**Length:** Usually a few sessions.

**Other Information:** Parents don't have to be in same room.

## Collaborative Practice

**Explanation:** Parents share experts on finances, parenting, etc. Each parent has a lawyer.

**Length:** Months of parent-lawyer meetings and group meetings.

**Other Information:** Lawyers must be specially trained and can't take the case to court.

## Parenting Coordination

**Explanation:** A parenting coordinator (PC) is essentially a mediator who also shares advice for parenting and communicating.

**Length:** Often years, with sessions planned as issues arise.

**Other Information:** In some cases, PCs make decisions parents can't agree on.

## Arbitration

**Explanation:** An arbitrator serves like a judge over a trial. But it doesn't happen in a courtroom, and parents hire the arbitrator.

**Length:** Usually a day, plus months of preparing evidence.

**Other Information:** A court has to confirm an arbitrator's custody ruling before it's enforceable.

