



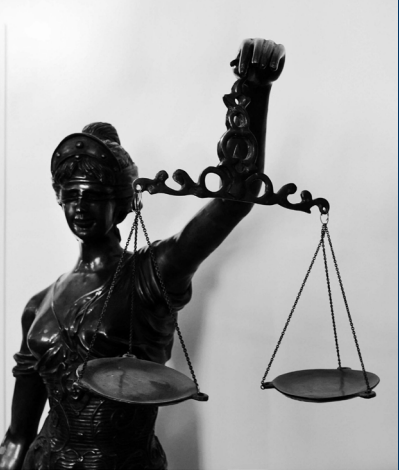
An Overview of Family Law Court Facilitation Services



Presented by:

Chris Hill, Family Law Analyst
Michele White, Statewide Facilitator

May 13, 2025



OJD facilitation services offered:



- **Every court has or shares a facilitator**

[Oregon Judicial Department : Free Help for Family Law Cases](#)

- **3 Regional models to share and provide service everyday**

[Oregon Judicial Department : Northwest Oregon Facilitation Initiative \(NWOFI\)](#)

Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, Yamhill

[Oregon Judicial Department : Southern Oregon Facilitation Initiative \(SOFI\)](#)

Baker, Coos/Curry, Douglas, Grant/Harney, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath/Lake, Malheur

[Oregon Judicial Department : Greater Oregon Facilitation Initiative \(GOFI\)](#)

- **1 Statewide remote child support facilitator**

[Oregon Judicial Department : Remote Child Support Court \(RCSC\)](#)



What facilitators can do:

ORS 3.428



- Help a person find the right forms and understand how to complete them.
- Explain how court procedures and rules work.
- Explain how to begin a court action.
- Refer to agencies or resources that provide legal services and information.
- Review documents and forms to make sure they are complete.

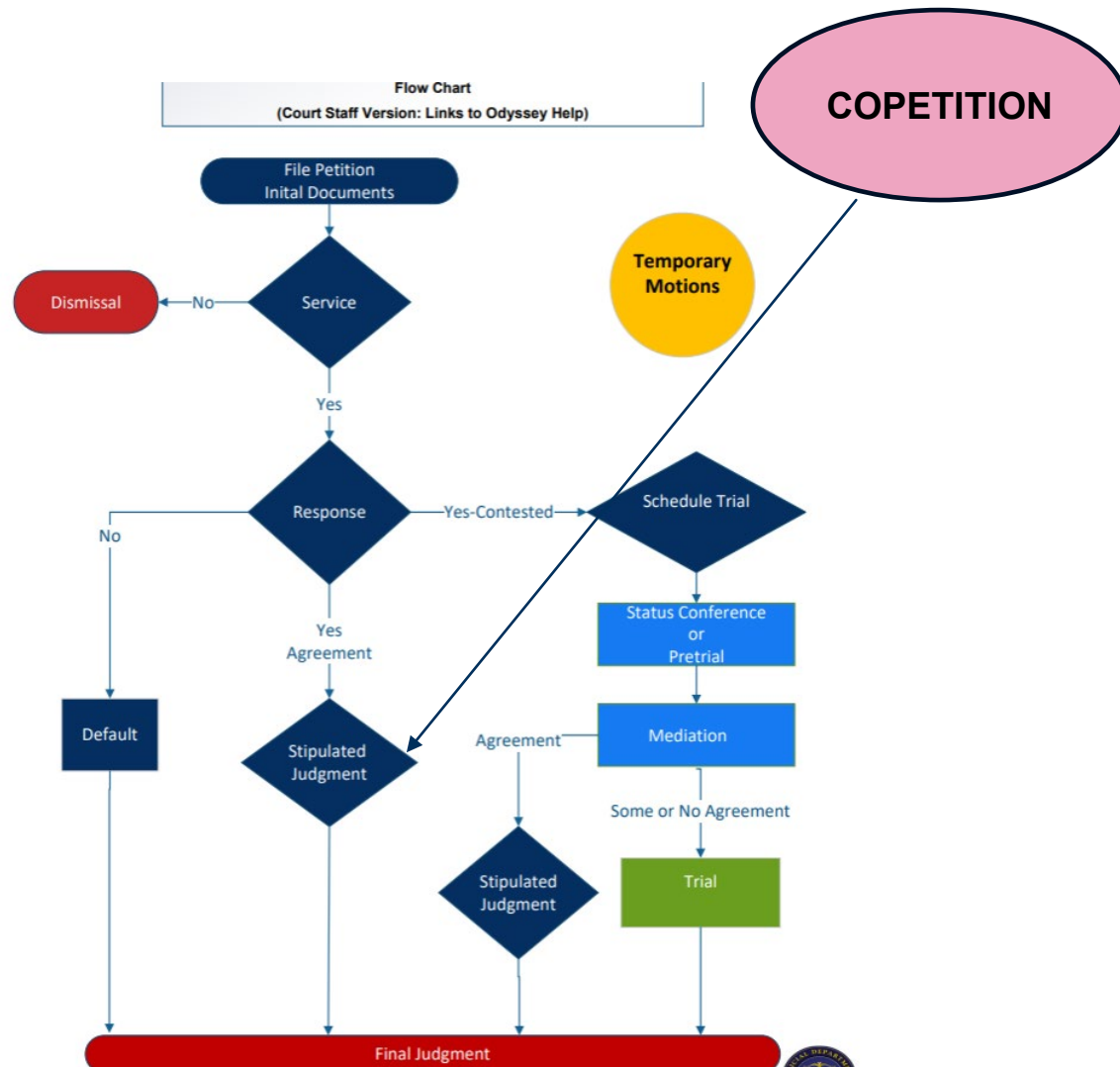
What facilitators cannot do:

- Recommend one procedure or form over another.
- Tell someone what they should do or give an opinion about their options.
- Advise or recommend someone take a particular action.
- Recommend a specific attorney
- Guess about the outcome of a case.
- Physically fill out a form for a person (Unless language/ADA need)
- Tell a person what to write on a form or what to say in court.

Facilitators are not attorneys

WHEN TO REFER A PERSON TO FACILITATION:

- Successful or unsuccessful mediation before filing – can help with forms and filing process:
- Unsuccessful mediation after filing – can offer materials to prepare for representing self at trial/filing exhibits
- Unmarried parents: successful mediation on custody/parenting time – only remaining issue child support
- Married parents: successful mediation on custody/parenting time and they have an agreement on spousal support, property matters and bills – can help with child support
- Any situation that might seem immediate:
 - Temporary motions: immediate danger for child, protection order, status quo to “freeze” where the child is living, temporary order for financial support, etc.



HOW A FAMILY LAW CASE PROCEEDS!

CASE ROADMAP

Roadmap to Dissolution

WHEN ELSE CAN FACILITATOR ASSIST:

When something changes:

MODIFICATIONS

Parties can mediate and agree to changes before ever filing Motion for Modification

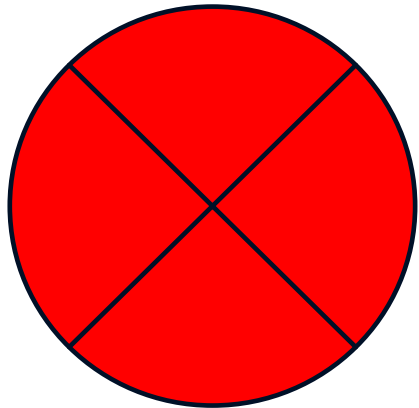
- Will need to complete and file a “Supplemental General Judgment”
- Still has to be signed by a judge to enforceable
- Only need to address terms they are changing, everything else can stay the same
- Do have to pay the modification filing fee when submitted

When someone isn't doing what they are supposed to:

ENFORCEMENT

Forms and assistance available

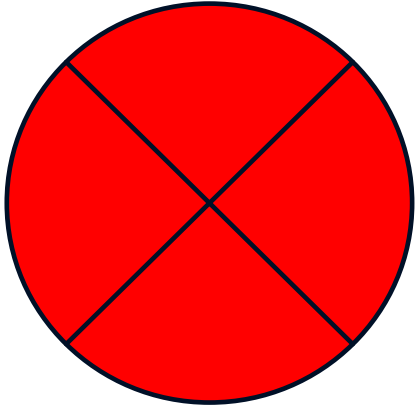
WARNING: HOW TO PROPERLY FINISH YOUR CASE



- Signing a parenting time agreement does not finish your case
- A mediation agreement is not enforceable until it is put into a final court document called a “General Judgment” and signed by a judge
- When both sides are agreeing to everything it is called a “Stipulated General Judgment”



GENERAL JUDGMENT REQUIRES MORE THAN A PARENTING AGREEMENT



There are other things the parties must decide on to finish case:

- Child support MUST be dealt with even if you are agreeing to none
- Medical coverage for child must be established
- Uninsured medical expenses
- Life Insurance/Child Tax Deduction

PARENT EDUCATION CLASS REQUIRED

[Oregon Judicial Department : Parent Education : Children & Families](#)



“FINISH” YOUR CASE

There are 2 documents needed to finish a case:

- Declaration in Support of Judgment
- General Judgment (with attachments)
 - Parenting Plan Agreement
 - Child Support Calculator (Required whether paying support or not)

Other terms you may hear used for these documents: “Stage 2”

Parties must get these forms and fill out them out to the best of their abilities BEFORE meeting with a facilitator.

Where they can get the forms: [Oregon Judicial Department : Forms : Forms : State of Oregon](#)

FINAL NOTES FROM FACILITATORS:

MUST FILL OUT JUDGMENT FORM TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY BEFORE COMING IN

- Facilitator can meet with one party or both to review forms
- Mistakes are OK – can be corrected until signed

SET REVIEW APPOINTMENT BEFORE PARTIES SIGN

Can review a stipulated judgment with only one party present but if other side has already signed cannot permit any changes to the document

Facilitator will not mediate with the parties on any remaining undecided issues

- They must come with all decisions already made
- If not = May mean another appointment

FEES

Must be dealt with – often were deferred at time of filing

Statewide Child Support Facilitator

Michele White

Statewide Child Support Facilitator – Program
Coordinator





Statewide Child Support Facilitator



Work with all parties:

- Assist with new petitions and final judgments
 - Custody, parenting time and child support
- Assist with modifications
 - Stipulations, custody, parenting time and child support
- Assist with child support calculations

Assist with questions involving agency processes

Resource for County Facilitators and Court staff



HOW TO HELP PARTIES THAT HAVE SETTLED CUSTODY/PARENTING TIME

■ ALL OREGON COURTS REQUIRE THAT THE PARTIES COMPLETE AND ATTACH A CHILD SUPPORT WORKSHEET TO THE JUDGMENT

- Even if they are agreeing to zero support
- Only exception is if they already have an existing child support order and want it to stay exactly the same (Usually see with unmarried parents)

YOU CAN SHOW THEM WHERE TO FIND AND COMPLETE THE CALCULATOR AND PRODUCE
THE WORKSHEET

OR

INFORM THEM THAT A FACILITATOR CAN HELP THEM COMPLETE IT

How you can help them prepare for completing worksheet/meeting with facilitator:

- Get as much supporting documentation for calculations together as possible:
pay stubs, day care costs, health insurance cost

Oregon Child Support Program - Guidelines Calculator

- Deviate by than 15%
- Rebuttal factors
- If agreeing to no support at all they must provide thorough reasons to support
- If they are not currently agreeing on the amount of support - They can meet with facilitator just to run the numbers to get an idea to possibly settle instead of going to trial: (judge is going to use the same calculator)

The screenshot shows the Oregon Child Support Program Guidelines Calculator website. The header includes a navigation bar with "ESCAPE THIS SITE", "Locations", "About Us", and "Contact Us". Below the header is a banner image showing a person's legs in yellow and green rain boots. The main heading is "Support Guidelines Calculator". A note states "All figures are monthly except as noted." There is a "Clear Form" button. The form includes a section for "Relationship" with a dropdown menu and a "Select one" button. Below this is a "Minor children only" checkbox. At the bottom, there are input fields for dollar amounts, each preceded by a "\$" symbol.

Oregon Judicial Department Statewide Child Support Facilitator

Remote assistance is available
by email, phone or video
conference!



We can help you with:

- Finding and completing forms in any family law matter involving children
- Child support calculations
- Child support modifications
- Any questions about how court works

Schedule an Appointment

If you are ready to schedule your free remote appointment, scan the QR Code or go to:
www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/rcsc and click
"Schedule a Facilitator"

*Interpreter services are available at no cost.
Se ofrecen servicios de interpretación sin costo.*



Contact

Phone: 503-986-7000

Email: ojd.statewide.child.support.facilitator@ojd.state.or.us

Questions?



Michele White

Statewide Child
Support Facilitator
Program Coordinator



Ojd.statewide.child.support.facilitator@ojd.or.us



503-986-7000



[Oregon Judicial Department : Remote Child Support Court \(RCSC\) : Remote Child Support Court : State of Oregon](#)