

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

FAMILY COURT SERVICES What You Should Know After Your Appointment

Communicating with the Child Custody Recommending Counselor (CCR Counselor) after the CCRC session:

1. A CCR Counselor generally does not discuss matters with an individual parent or attorney outside of the initial CCRC session. (Certain exceptions may apply by State statute or local rule).
2. After the CCRC session, the CCR Counselor will advise the parties if any further information is required. Unless the CCR Counselor makes a specific request for more information, he or she will not accept any other communication or documentation from any party or attorney after the session. Do not initiate any communication with the CCR Counselor after the CCRC session (including phone calls, messages, e-mails, faxes, letters, documents, etc.).

Important information regarding the CCRC report:

1. The CCR Counselor is required by local court rule to submit a written report to the court prior to the court hearing. The CCRC report describes either the parenting plan agreed upon by you and the other parent -- or the parenting plan that the CCR Counselor *recommends* for your child(ren) in the event that you and the other parent could not agree upon a plan. According to California law, the CCR Counselor's *recommendations* are based on what he/she considers to be in the best interests of the child(ren).
2. A copy of the CCRC report will always be available for review by you, the other party, and/or your attorney(s) when you arrive in the courtroom on the date of your court hearing. In addition, a copy of the CCRC report should be available for review by you, the other party, and/or your attorney(s) at least one (1) business day prior to the date of your court hearing. At the end of your CCRC session, the CCR Counselor will tell you when your CCRC report will be completed and how to get a copy of it. See **Requesting a Copy of the CCRC Report** form.

Important information regarding the court hearing:

1. At the court hearing, the judicial officer will review the CCR Counselor's report and recommendations, as well as all other relevant information regarding the custody matter.
2. A parent can also tell the judicial officer directly at the court hearing about what they want, and whether they agree or disagree with the CCR Counselor's *recommendations*. A parent can provide the judicial officer with any additional information to be considered at the court hearing regarding the custody matter.
3. The judicial officer may make a decision at the court hearing based on many sources of information, not just on the CCR Counselor's report.

Important information regarding the court order:

1. Only a judicial officer can make a court order regarding parenting plans and timeshare arrangements at the court hearing. Only a judicial officer can change (or modify) a court order.
2. The orders of the court are your legal directions for working together as responsible parents. Parents are required by law to follow all the terms of the current court order.
3. A CCR Counselor cannot enforce court orders. The court and the police deal with enforcement of court orders.
4. Neither a CCR Counselor, nor any staff member of Family Court Services, can give legal advice. Only attorneys can give legal advice.