

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW AFTER YOUR MEETING WITH THE CHILD CUSTODY
RECOMMENDING COUNSELOR**

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

1. A CCRC generally does not discuss matters with an individual parent or attorney outside of the mediation process. (Certain exceptions may apply by State statute or local rule).
2. After the session, the CCRC will advise the parties if any further information is required. Unless the CCRC 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 CCRC after the session (including phone calls, messages, e-mails, faxes, letters, documents, etc.).

Important information regarding the CCRC report:

1. The CCRC is required by local court rule to submit a written report to the court prior to the court hearing. The report describes either the parenting plan agreed upon by you and the other parent or the parenting plan that the CCRC *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 CCRC'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) before your hearing commences. If you are referred for a prescheduled appointment before your hearing, the CCRC will tell you when your report will be completed and how to get a copy of it.

Important information regarding the court hearing:

1. At the court hearing, the judicial officer will review the CCRC's report and recommendations, as well as all other relevant information regarding the custody or visitation 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 CCRC's *recommendations*. A parent can provide the judicial officer with any additional information to be considered at the court hearing regarding the custody or visitation matter.
3. The judicial officer may make a decision at the court hearing based on many sources of information, not just on the CCRC's report.

Important information regarding the court order:

1. Only a judicial officer can make a court order regarding parenting plans and timeshare arrangements. 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 CCRC cannot enforce court orders. The court and the police deal with enforcement of court orders.
4. Neither a CCRC, nor any staff member of Unified Family Court Services, can give legal advice. Only attorneys can give legal advice.

How to provide feedback about your experience with Family Court Services:

If you wish to provide either positive or negative feedback to Family Court Services about your experience with any of its staff, you are welcome to do so. There are forms for this purpose available at the reception window in each FCS office, entitled “Feedback Form and Complaint Policy” or access the form on the Family Court Services website. You may also ask to speak with a supervisor if one is available. Please note that any complaint must be made within 20 days after the event about which the complaint is being made, or the complaint may not be investigated.