

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING (CCRC) What You Should Know Before Your Appointment

Child Custody Recommending Counselors assist parents and guardians in developing parenting plans and timeshare arrangements. The goal of CCRC is to help parents and guardians negotiate a mutually satisfactory parenting plan for their children and to agree on rules to make the plan succeed.

1. **Document review.** A CCR Counselor may review a limited number of documents provided by a parent or guardian only if there is verification that the other party has had the opportunity to review copies of those documents. The other party may be copied by fax or mail. Materials that may be reviewed (limit of 15 pages) include reports from police, child protective services, therapists or schools.
2. **Privacy and the CCRC process.** While reasonable efforts are made to keep your contact information private, the CCR Counselor must disclose information about your case if there is an allegation or suspicion of child abuse or neglect or if there is a belief that someone may hurt him/herself or others. If the parties do not agree on a parenting plan, the CCR Counselor will be asked by the court to submit a report and recommendations regarding the parenting and timeshare issues involving the children. The CCR Counselor may disclose information about the parties as necessary, and may recommend the appointment of an attorney for the child, that a child custody evaluation be ordered, and/or that other appropriate orders be made. You will receive a copy of this report and you will have an opportunity to talk to the judicial officer about the contents and recommendations. See **Requesting a Copy of the Child Custody Recommending Counselor Report** form.
3. **Separate appointments.** Separate appointments may be requested if there are sworn allegations of domestic violence or if there is a restraining order in place that protects one party from the other. If the Restraining Order permits, parties may choose to meet together by signing the **Agreement to Meet Together** form in advance of their CCRC session.
4. **Child Custody Recommending Counseling time is limited.** The amount of time a CCR Counselor can give to each family is limited. In addition to the CCRC session, each case may also require document review, telephone calls, report writing, and sometimes an appearance at court by the CCR Counselor. If you want additional CCRC services, you may want to consider a private mediator and or an appropriate agency in the community
5. **Keep the appointment.** You will be scheduled for an Orientation appointment in addition to the CCRC appointment. Arrive on time for your appointments. The CCR Counselor may conduct a meeting if only one parent attends and the information provided by that parent will be sent to court. The CCR Counselor will inform the court if a parent fails to attend the orientation or CCRC appointment without prior arrangement
6. **No private discussions.** A CCR Counselor generally does not have private discussions with parents or their attorneys on matters related to parenting plans and timeshare arrangements unless separate appointments have been scheduled. Certain statutory exceptions apply.
7. **Children's participation.** Children are not to be brought to orientation or to CCRC sessions without prior approval. A CCR Counselor or a judicial officer will determine whether children are to be interviewed.
8. **Child abuse allegations.** A CCR Counselor does not investigate crimes or allegations of child abuse. These issues will be referred to the police and/or child welfare agencies that conduct investigations.
9. **Enforcement of the court order.** A CCR Counselor cannot enforce court orders or give legal advice. The court and the police deal with enforcement issues. Only attorneys can give legal advice, including advice about enforcement of court orders.