

Who is a support person?

A support person is someone who provides support to a party in mediation. A support person can help you understand the issues in dispute or simply help the party feel more comfortable in the mediation.

Who can be a support person?

A support person is a person that a party feels comfortable with in disclosing issues that may be personal and sensitive. The support person may be a;

- Social worker
- Disability support worker
- Teacher
- Family support worker
- Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme worker
- Other relevant service provider
- A relative such as a parent, aunt, uncle, cousin, sibling
- A friend

NB: A support person cannot be a party to the dispute nor can they have any indirect involvement in the dispute.

The other party to the mediation must consent to you having a support person present.

Does CJs provide you with a Support Person?

No, You will need to choose your support person and make arrangements for them to attend the mediation session.

However, CJC staff may be able to link you with appropriate services if you don't have a support person in mind.

CJCs will also check with the other party that they agree to;

- A Support Person being present
- The particular nominated Support Person being present.

CJC mediators will then confirm the role of the Support Person on the day of the mediation session.

When might a support person be needed?

Support people might be needed for;

- A child or a young person (*)
- A party with a disability
- A party who is anxious about the mediation process
- A mediation session where the mediation advisor has assessed that additional support is required for a party.

(*) A support person should always be present where a party is a minor.

What type of support can a support person provide?

Support can be provided in a number of ways. Support people do not necessarily have to be in the mediation session.

Support people can:

- Be available in the waiting area – mediators can schedule breaks so that a party can have some time with their support person outside the mediation session.
- Be available in the mediation session but not participate in the mediation process
- Be available in the mediation session and participate – this may be necessary for a minor or for a party with a disability
- Be available in the mediation session for part of the session only – a party may initially feel they cannot proceed with the mediation session alone. However, their position may change as the session proceeds.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like more information about Mediation, or to speak to one of our Mediation Advisors, please call us on:

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