

# Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Mediation System



## What happens during mediation?

- A mediator will help guide a conversation between the two parties and help them work toward an agreement.
- Mediation will begin within 14 days after the mediator is assigned. You will meet at a time and place you both agree on.
- If an agreement is reached, it will be put in writing. Everyone will sign it and it will become legally binding.

## Who are the Birth to 3 Program mediators?

Birth to 3 Program mediation is provided by Pionek Valle Law Group, LLC. They are a neutral provider of the intake, screening, and mediation referral process.

For more information on possible mediators, visit:

[wsems.us/mediators/](http://wsems.us/mediators/)



## More questions?

More information about Birth to 3 Program mediation is available on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website:

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/  
mediation.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm)

You can also contact Pionek Valle Law Group, LLC:

[gia@wsems.us](mailto:gia@wsems.us)

414-241-5535

## Service Coordinator

## County Birth to 3 Program Coordinator



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES

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This information is provided in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 90.12(5)(e)2 and IDEA Part C 34 CFR 303.431.

Disagreements can happen.

Do you have a concern or disagreement about services or decisions made by the Birth to 3 Program?

If talking to the team didn't help fix it, **the Birth to 3 Program Mediation System can help!**



## What is mediation?

- Mediation is when a neutral person called a mediator helps solve disagreements between two parties.
- For the Birth to 3 Program, it can be used when parents or caregivers and program staff don't agree on decisions about eligibility or services on the Individual Family Service Plan.
- In mediation, you have a safe place to openly share your views.
- Mediation is free, private, and voluntary. You decide if you want to use mediation or not.

## How does mediation help?

- Mediation often finds a solution that everyone agrees to.
- The mediator helps come up with options but doesn't decide for you.
- You can talk openly.
- Your child still gets services from the Birth to 3 Program during mediation unless you say no.



## When can I choose mediation?

You might choose mediation if you don't agree with:

- Decisions about your child's eligibility
- The evaluation process
- The services being offered
- How the services are being provided

## Who can request mediation?

- Parents or caregivers
- The local Birth to 3 Program
- Both parties together

## Who can participate in mediation?

- Parents and caregivers
- Two representatives from the local Birth to 3 Program
- Other parties, with the permission of both the parents or caregivers and the Birth to 3 Program representatives.



## How do I request mediation?

### 1 First, you will fill out the Request for Mediation Form.

- Find it at [dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/birthto3/mediation.htm)
- You can either fill out the form with your local Birth to 3 Program or on your own

### 2 Next, mail or email the form.

- **Mail the form to:**  
Wisconsin Special Education  
Mediation System (WSEMS)  
Gia Pionek  
PO Box 70693  
Milwaukee, WI 53207
- **Scan and email the form to:**  
[gia@wsems.us](mailto:gia@wsems.us)

### 3 Last, get a mediator assigned.

- If you submit the form with signatures from parents or caregivers **and** local Birth to 3 Program staff, a mediator will be assigned right away.
- If either party submits the form individually, the other party will be contacted to see if they want to participate. They have three days to agree. If they do, then a mediator will be assigned.