

## Qualifying for CP-ADR through ADR-LINK

To qualify for the MCYS funding available through ADR-LINK, there must be a clear decision that a court intervention is being considered, is pending or is in progress. ADR-LINK serves the eight Societies and ten First Nation communities in the South West Region of Ontario, specifically:

- Bruce Grey Child & Family Services
- Chatham-Kent Children's Services
- Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex
- Children's Aid Society of Oxford County
- Family & Children's Services of St. Thomas & Elgin County
- Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society
- Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society
- Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society
- Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Chippewas of Sarnia)
- Caldwell First Nation
- Chippewas of Nawash First Nation
- Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
- Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- Delaware Nation Moravian of the Thames
- Munsee Delaware Nation
- Oneida Nation of the Thames
- Saugeen First Nation
- Walpole Island First Nation

### Examples of possible court interventions include:

- Supervision order (new application or status review)
- Society wardship
- Crown wardship
- Adoption openness arrangement

**The court application is contested by one or all parties (or will be when it is launched).**

**Notice is given to the Office of the Children's Lawyer that a referral for ADR is being made.**



**All key parties freely consent to consider ADR.**

**All parties understand they can terminate the ADR process (or their role in it) at any time.**

### For more information

or to make a referral, contact:

#### ADR-LINK

Tel: 519-679-7250, ext 150

Fax: 519-679-4234

Pamphlets in this series are:

- Family Group Conferencing
- Child Protection Mediation
- Indigenous Approaches/ODR
- Accessing ADR-LINK

Information for  
Referral Agents in the  
South West Region of Ontario



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Court Clinic

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ADR-LINK

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ADR-LINK

Connecting ADR Practitioners  
• Neutral Resolution •  
Alternatives for Families to Court

## Accessing ADR-LINK

This Child Protection ADR Initiative is Funded by:  
Ministry of Children and Youth Services

ADR-LINK connects parties in dispute with an independent Child Protection Mediation Practitioner, Family Group Conference Practitioner or Indigenous Approach Practitioner. None of the Practitioners are employees of the London Family Court Clinic or are affiliated with the Clinic. However, all mediators are certified in child protection mediation by the Ontario Association for Family Mediation and listed on its roster and all family group conference coordinators have been trained and mentored through the George Hull Centre and listed on its roster. By participating in the ADR-LINK service, you acknowledge that the ADR service is not being provided by the Clinic, and agree to hold harmless ADR-LINK and the London Family Court Clinic for any and all claims, actions, suits, etc. brought against ADR-LINK directly or indirectly.

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# ADR-LINK

connects families involved in child protection matters with Children's Aid Societies to ADR-LINK Practitioners in the South(west) Region of Ontario. When a child protection case qualifies for ADR, the CAS or the Indigenous community that the child is affiliated with makes a referral with the family's consent to ADR-LINK. To accomplish this, ADR-LINK maintains a roster of ADR practitioners accepting cases in any part of the South West Region. ADR-LINK also processes payments and collects data on the process. ADR-LINK is housed at the London Family Court Clinic and is funded by the Ministry of Children & Youth Services.



## What is ADR?

Four categories of ADR are prescribed:

- **Child Protection Mediation**
- **Family Group Conferencing (FGC)**
- for **Indigenous** families, an ADR approach established by their band or community, or other approach deemed appropriate by them. This category is sometimes called "**Indigenous Approaches** or **Original Dispute Resolution (ODR)**."
- **Other**

## What are the steps in the referral process?

- Assessing if the case qualifies for this ADR funding. The referral agent does this.
- Securing consent of key parties to make a referral to ADR-LINK. The referral agent does this.
- Consulting the Band if the case involves a First Nation family. The referral agent does this.
- Notifying the Office of the Children's Lawyer. The referral agent does this.
- Making a referral to ADR-LINK. The referral agent does this.
- Matching the case with an ADR professional on the ADR-LINK roster. ADR-LINK does this.
- Setting up and conducting the ADR process. The ADR professional does this.
- Getting everyone's feedback and opinions about the process. ADR-LINK does this.

## Should I request CP Mediation or Family Group Conferencing?

The success of an ADR intervention depends highly on using the appropriate technique with an amenable case at an opportune time.

CP Mediation is helpful when there are one or two parties who can advocate for themselves, and who have the capacity and are comfortable participating in discussions about issues and options pertaining to the child(ren). For more information, see the web site of the Ontario Association for Family Mediation: [www.oafm-cpmed.ca](http://www.oafm-cpmed.ca)

Family Group Conferencing can help when there is a support network of family, friends and community members available and willing to generate options and create a viable plan. For more information, see the web site of the George Hull Centre: [www.georgehullcentre.on.ca](http://www.georgehullcentre.on.ca)

Indigenous Approaches/ODR is available to those that identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit, either living on or off reserve. ADR-LINK is supporting Indigenous communities in the South West Region to foster the development of ADR methods in harmony with traditional practices of decision making and dispute resolution. Call ADR-LINK for more information on the development of Original Dispute Resolution for Indigenous communities.

## Can I choose the ADR-LINK Practitioner?

To maintain the fairness of the process, ADR-LINK Practitioners are assigned on a rotating basis from a roster of qualified professionals maintained by ADR-LINK. However, factors considered in matching are: proximity, availability, any special skill set required (e.g., language, cultural competence), potential conflicts of interest, knowledge of local resources, and preference of parties.

## How do I make a referral to ADR-LINK?

1. If the referral agent is CAS, discuss the case with your supervisor. Some cases are not amenable to ADR or the referral may be premature. Your agency may have policies around inclusionary and exclusionary criteria. If the referral agent is an Indigenous community member, consult the Band or ADR-LINK for your specific community referral contact.
2. Discuss the possibility of ADR with the family and get their agreement to consider ADR.
3. If this is an Indigenous family, regardless of who is making the referral, the Band is to be consulted.
4. Obtain written consent from all key parties, including children 12 and over, to make the referral to ADR-LINK. Use your agency or communities own general consent form for this.
5. Notify the Office of the Children's Lawyer that a referral for ADR is being made. The OCL has a form for this purpose that you can find on the ADR-LINK web site.

6. Complete all sections of the ADR-LINK referral form. Submit the completed referral form, OCL notification form and signed consents to ADR-LINK.

Further information on the referral process is found on our web site.

## What about expenses such as language translation or child care?

Costs essential to facilitating the process are covered through ADR-LINK. Enter this information clearly on the referral form.

## Where can I find a referral form?

This form is available on our web site as an Adobe Acrobat "fill and print" file.

## How do I submit the referral form?

Complete it on your computer and print off a copy for your records. Send the completed form to the confidential fax number listed in this pamphlet.

