



ADR-Link provides access to several streams of service for families/youth involved with Children's Aid Society offices. Brochures are available for each service:

- **Family Group Conferencing**
- **Indigenous Approaches to ADR**
- **Child Protection Mediation**
- **Ready, Set, Go**
- **4th Option**

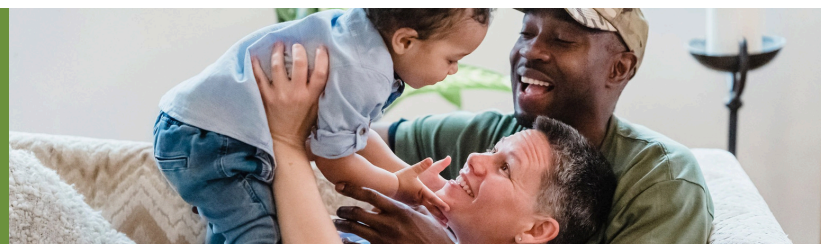
› **4th Option is used primarily when:**

- Family members and/or caregivers do not consent to a plan for a child's care that will form the basis of a court application put forward by the CAS (in process or contemplated)
- Family members and/or caregivers need help to work together to develop and commit to plans for the care of children involved with CAS and:
 - are not able to communicate effectively and respectfully
 - are not able to focus on the children's wellbeing
 - may have a child that is medically fragile requiring special considerations for planning
 - may be recommended when a parent has cognitive challenges that require accommodation
 - generally have already begun an ADR service but are "stuck" due to any of the above difficulties
- All parties agree to participate voluntarily and accept that CAS is involved with the family
- All 4th Option referrals require the written approval of the CAS Executive Director

› **Is the 4th Option fair?**

- The service providers do not take sides, make decisions for you, or judge you
- A coaching program may be offered by an independent provider for "New Ways For Families" to help develop focused communication strategies
- Meetings or conferences may be adapted to the special needs of participants if required
- The practitioner will help the family describe the parts of the plan they do not agree with and talk it through with the group
- Everyone works together to reach an agreement on care for the child(ren)
- The 4th Option may help reduce your time spent in court and the time your family/child(ren) are unsettled
- 4th Option may improve the relationship between the family and their worker(s) by helping to develop inclusive and respectful communication
- There is no cost to the family to participate
- Practitioners are independent, neutral and not employed or selected by CAS
- Participation is voluntary and you may withdraw at any time if you wish
- Practitioners are all trained members of Ontario Association of Family Mediators

Many ADR-Link practitioners are trained to deliver this service.





What Is The Process?

1. Family meets with their worker (referring organization)
2. Worker offers ADR to clients and then processes a referral to ADR-Link
3. The ADR practitioner:
 - will reach out to CAS, parties listed on the referral form
 - will develop a proposal for 4th Option services and submit it to ADR-Link to coordinate approval by CAS Executive Director
 - may coordinate additional services; for example “New Ways For Families” program
 - will arrange time(s) and space for mediation meetings (family, practitioner, worker attend – OCL may attend and other lawyers may or may not attend as coordinated by practitioner)
 - guides the meetings, prepares an agreement if/when one is reached and provides a copy to all parties within 10 business days
4. Participants are encouraged to review the agreement with their lawyer prior to signing it
5. ADR practitioner arranges final meeting to receive the signed agreement
6. Participants move forward with a clear understanding and commitment to the care plan for the child(ren)

› What if 4th Option Does Not End In An Agreement?

If there is no agreement, the case continues just like it was before it was referred.

› What if I’m Not Satisfied With the Process?

Please reach out to ADR-Link@lfcc.on.ca to offer feedback.

Or contact us another way

- **Phone:** 519-282-6991
- **Fax:** 519-679-4234
- **Web:** www.adr-link.ca



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

ADR-Link is administered by London Family Court Clinic - info@lfcc.on.ca for contact