

ELDERCARING COORDINATION or ELDER MEDIATION: *What's the difference?*

When a family can maintain focus on the elder and what the elder needs, not vent hostilities, mediation is the more appropriate process to bring them to consensus. But when family personalities, personal agendas and constant blame interfere with their ability to provide needed, cooperative care, or make collaborative decisions for an aging loved one who is losing capacity to do so, eldercaring coordination can help that family acquire the tools they need to embrace their individual strengths, look forward not back, communicate effectively, reinforce the elder's "voice," and negotiate meaningfully.

LOW CONFLICT:
Family managing
issues and
relationships

MEDIUM CONFLICT:
Family struggles
with issues

HIGH CONFLICT:
Family struggles
with issues and
relationships

**FAMILY
MEETING**

When you can sit across the kitchen table as a family to discuss issues regarding the care and safety of their aging loved one

ELDER MEDIATION

When you want to address issues with family members, but need help with the resolution process

**ELDERCARING
COORDINATION**

When you and your family first need to reduce conflict and learn how to focus together on the older adult



ELDERCARING COORDINATION is the first court alternative specifically created to meet the unique needs of families with high conflict dynamics. The court may refer a family for eldercaring coordination when there are:

- Multiple or frequent court motions raising non-legal issues
- Concerns about an ageing person's care and safety
- Imbalances of power where only some parties have legal representation
- Family alliances and/or members competing to serve as guardian
- Frequent disputes about unmeasurable or unsubstantiated issues
- Blameful, possessive or controlling behaviors toward the ageing person

ELDER MEDIATION	ELDERCARING COORDINATION
Issue Driven, focus on issues concerning elder	Conflict Driven, focus on reducing discord over elder's care and safety
Voluntary Process or Court Ordered	Court Ordered
Event, could be matter of hours	Long-term Process – meeting as needed for up to 2 years
Screen at start for abuse, neglect, exploitation, appropriateness for mediation	Ongoing Screening – screen from the start and throughout process, reducing risks for abuse, neglect and exploitation
Identify issues, facilitate negotiation and decision-making	Work with family on learning HOW to negotiate, make elder-focused decisions, and develop a support system

The United Nations has recognized eldercaring coordination as an
Awareness to Action Model for the Welfare of Ageing Persons.

Go to www.EldercaringCoordination.com or contact the ACR/FLAFCC Elder Justice Initiative on Eldercaring Coordination Co-Chairs Linda Fieldstone at Lindafieldstone@outlook.com, Sue Bronson at Sbronson@wi.rr.com or Judge Michelle Morley at Mmorley@circuit5.org if you are interested more information.