

Laura Lorber, J.D. · MC3 Certified Mediator & Parent Coordinator

Is this a mediation moment?

For the case sitting on your desk right now — or the one that's still sitting with you.

Not every stuck case needs a mediator. But some do, and the moment usually announces itself before anyone names it out loud. This isn't a sales pitch — it's the same lens I use walking into a case, adapted so you can run it yourself. Pull out a real case, current or closed, and work through it.

A note on method: print this and answer by hand if you can. Writing tends to slow you down enough to actually think something through — typing rarely does the same work.

1. The case at a glance

What's the one thing this case is actually stuck on right now?

How long has it been stuck — and how many conversations has it survived without moving?

Where does the friction actually sit — one specific decision, the whole parenting structure, or a pattern repeating under an agreement that already exists?

2. Reading the escalation

Has either party started working around the other — asking a child directly, changing plans unilaterally, going around the process to get an answer they want?

Is the conflict still about the issue itself — or has it become about who's right?

If nothing changes, what does the next 30 days look like?

3. Positions vs. interests

Ken Cloke's work distinguishes what people say they want (positions) from what they actually need underneath it (interests). Most stuck cases are stuck at the position level — the parties are arguing past each other because no one has named the interest yet.

Party A

Stated position:

What they might actually need underneath it:

Party B

Stated position:

What they might actually need underneath it:

4. The fork

If this issue doesn't get resolved, what happens to the rest of the case?

If it does get resolved, what does that unlock?

5. Which door fits

If you got this far and something feels familiar, here's roughly where it lands.

One bounded issue

The rest of the case is moving.
One issue is what's stalling it.

A plan that isn't holding

There's no workable parenting plan, or the one that exists keeps breaking down.

A repeating pattern

There's already an agreement, but the same disputes keep resurfacing.

If working through this surfaced something worth a second opinion, I'm glad to talk it through — no pitch, no obligation.

Laura@GradientResolutions.com · calendly.com/mediatorlaura/lawyer-consultation ·
GradientResolutions.com