



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 09/04/2024

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN TARRANT COUNTY AND TARRANT COUNTY CHILD
PROTECTIVE SERVICES BOARD FOR THE PROVISION OF
MEDIATION SERVICES FOR CASES INVOLVING CHILD
PROTECTIVE SERVICES CLIENTS**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tarrant County and Tarrant County Child Protective Services (CPS) Board for the provision of mediation service for cases involving CPS clients in Tarrant County.

BACKGROUND

In an effort to reduce the caseload of the Tarrant County family courts and provide additional support to families and children, the Tarrant County Dispute Resolution agrees to provide or facilitate the provision of mediation services for Tarrant County CPS cases. These services will be delivered by independent attorney mediators who meet qualifications established by Dispute Resolution. This MOU will provide a public purpose by reducing the caseload in the family courts, thereby expediting case resolution, and improving access to justice.

On July 16, 2024, Commissioners Court, through Court Order #124470, approved the Dispute Resolution Fee Schedule. Tarrant County Dispute Resolution will pay independent attorney mediators a fee range between \$250.00 for a half-day mediation, \$500.00 for a full-day mediation, or \$125.00 per hour for shorter periods.

Tarrant County CPS Board will pay a flat fee of \$1,000.00 annually for mediation service. After the Tarrant County CPS Board has expended \$1,000.00 on mediation services, the Tarrant County Dispute Resolution will be responsible for funding all future mediation services needed for Tarrant County CPS cases for up to a total of \$40,000.00.

With approval, this MOU shall become effective on October 1, 2024, and shall remain in effect for a period of one (1) year. This MOU may be renewed by mutual written agreement of the parties. This MOU may be terminated by any party upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the other parties.

The MOU has been approved as to form by the Criminal District Attorney's Office.

SUBMITTED BY:	Administrator's Office	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Susan Young Susan Young
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FISCAL IMPACT

The anticipated fiscal impact of this agreement is up to \$40,000.00. Funds are requested to be available in 22500-2025 Alternative Dispute Resolution Services (ADRS) Fund/4840100000 Dispute Resolution/569011 Professional Services.

This MOU could potentially generate cost savings for the County by reducing the length of time needed for court-appointed attorneys in CPS cases.

Tarrant County Dispute Resolution has allocated funds in its special purpose budget to support mediation for individuals in need. CPS mediation aligns with this intended use.