

PEER TO PEER ADOPTION ASSISTANCE (AA) COMMUNITY RESOURCE SERIES INFORMATION SESSIONS: STATE HEARINGS (SH) QUESTION AND ANSWER JULY 6, 2021	
<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Who requests mediation? The family or the Agency?	<p>Either party may initiate the mediation process by completing the JFS Form 01470. If the county initiates the mediation process, the family must be agreeable to the process in order to proceed. BSH contacts the family to determine if they are agreeable and then forwards the required documentation to both parties. BSH does encourage the family to participate in the process.</p> <p>For a formal description of the process, please refer to OAC 5101:2-49-05 especially paragraph (K).</p>
Is this process the same if a family requests an increase in subsidy after the initial agreement?	Yes, we do mediate for requests for increases to existing AA subsidies. These requests are fewer relative to requests for mediation regarding the initial AA amount, but they do exist.
Will there be a time in the future that the state will determine AA instead of each county? I think part of the conflict between pre adoptive parents and counties is the inconsistency between each agency and the lack of guidance regarding how to determine amounts.	One of the CST recommendations is to explore the AA process. This will begin in July 2022.
What are stats around adoption disruption and subsidy?	Those stats are not available.
Can you give us some more examples of family circumstances?	Family circumstances are really individual, and we do not use a set list of examples. However, here are some items that we have heard: job loss due to illness in the family, need for specialized day care, missed work hours due to the special needs or illness / behavior of the child. Ask what are the circumstances of the family that are needed to incorporate the child into the home?

How do you interpret adoptive family resources?	Family circumstances may include income and resources which BSH will ask for this information as part of the mediation process.
What if the family has a lawyer?	The family's attorney can be a welcome part of the mediation process. The county is welcome to utilize its own attorney or county prosecutor.