

**Key Questions (with Additional Probing Questions)**  
**for Domestic Relations Mediation**  
**To Screen for Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment**

- 1. Do you have any concerns about how the two of you will make decisions during mediation?**
  - a. Could you tell me how the decision to divorce and/or separate was reached?
  - b. When you look back over time, how were decisions made in your marriage?
- 2. What happens when you speak your mind and express your point of view to the other party? Are you afraid or worried that the other party will harm you during the mediation or after you leave because of what you say in mediation? If so, please describe.**
  - a. When you and the other party fight and/or are angry with each other, what happens?
  - b. During mediation sessions, you and the other party may meet in the same room to talk about the issues and problems that need to be resolved. Do you have any concerns about sitting in the same room with the other party or mediating with the other party?
    - i. What are your concerns?
    - ii. If your attorney or an advocate was present during the mediation sessions, would you still have these concerns?
    - iii. If you and the other party were in separate rooms during the mediation sessions, would you still have these concerns?
  - c. Do you ever become afraid or worried for yourself or others based on the looks from the other party or actions of the other party?
- 3. Has the other party ever denied you access to the children? Has the other party ever denied you or the children access to money for food, shelter, medical needs, clothing, etc.?**
  - a. Has the other party ever prevented you from having contact with family or friends, or with your children?
  - b. Has the other party ever threatened to take the children or threatened to stop you from seeing them?
- 4. Do you or your children ever feel afraid of or worried about the other party? What are you and/or the children afraid of or worried about? If no, does the other party or do your children feel afraid of or worried about you? What are they afraid of or worried about?**
  - a. Has there ever been any physical confrontation between you and the other party? What happened?
  - b. Do you ever become afraid or worried for yourself or others based on the looks from the other party; actions of the other party; or tone of voice of the other party?
  - c. How are the children doing?
  - d. Do you have any concerns about the safety of the children?

- e. Is there a pending abuse or neglect case involving your children?
- 5. Has the other party ever pushed, shoved, hit, kicked, choked, or restrained you or the children, or pulled your or the children's hair? Have you or your children been hurt in any other way(s)? What happened? What was the outcome of the incident (were the police called)?**
- a. Has the other party ever damaged or destroyed your property, or harmed or threatened to harm your pets? Your children's property or pets?
  - b. Have you or any family members ever sought medical treatment as a result of an injury caused by the other party?
- 6. Has the other party ever used or threatened to use a weapon to harm you or the children? Has the other party ever threatened to kill or injure you, your children, a co-worker, a friend, or another family member? Has the other party ever caused you or the children to feel threatened or harassed by following you (and/or the children), interfering with your work, education, or friendships, making repeated phone calls to you (and/or the children), or sending you (and/or the children) several unwanted letters, emails, faxes, and gifts?**
- a. Have you ever sought to have a Protection Order issued against the other party?
  - b. Has either of you ever had a Protection Order issued against you by anyone?
  - c. Has either of you ever been found in contempt of court for violating a Protection Order?
  - d. Are you afraid the other party will physically harm you during the mediation or after you leave because of what you say in mediation?
  - e. Are you in immediate danger?
  - f. Have you or any one else ever called the police because of problems in your home?
  - g. Have you or the other party ever been arrested for or convicted of a crime?
  - h. Are there any guns or other weapons in the home? What kind? How many?
- 7. Do either of you have a problem with alcohol or drugs? Do either of you have a history of mental illness or emotional problems? Have either of you ever attempted or thought about attempting to hurt or kill yourself?**
8. Is there anything else you think I should know about you, the other party, or your family?
9. What would you like to see as an outcome of mediation?
10. What are the issues you think will be most difficult for you and the other party to resolve?