

Family mediation: free at Toronto Superior Court of Justice and highly subsidized for anyone in the GTA.  
Visit [mediate393.ca](http://mediate393.ca), [mediate311.ca](http://mediate311.ca) & [mediate47.ca](http://mediate47.ca) for more info. Twitter: @mediate393

## what's new

### The National Self-Represented Litigants Project is now including mediation in its study!

We know that our mediation clients are highly satisfied with the services they receive from our mediators and Information & Referral Coordinators, including those who are self-represented.

Now, those clients have the opportunity to report their experiences to Julie Macfarlane's seminal research project on the experiences of the self-represented in family court.

FDRIO, the Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario, reports that as a result of discussion, between its executive and Dr. Macfarlane, the intake form for the project has been amended to include questions about mediation.

Please visit [representingyourselfcanada.com](http://representingyourselfcanada.com) and send in your mediation stories!

### FREE SPEAKERS FOR YOUR EVENT OR COMMUNITY!

mediate393 is relentlessly seeking to educate organizations and the public about free family information and mediation services, family court procedures, and FDR options. For organizations and agencies interested in learning more, we will, at no cost, visit your location to provide an informative presentation.

We can also make arrangements to speak at an organization's social/networking event. For more information, please email us at [info@mediate393.ca](mailto:info@mediate393.ca)

### TEAM SPIRIT SHINES



Michelle Ben Zvi-Gillooly (left) and Renee Harding (right), take a momentary break from knocking down pins during a mediate393/Riverdale Mediation post-Christmas party at [The Ballroom](#). It was an evening of food, drinks, laughs, and strikes!

### Mediator profile



#### Mina Vaish

Mina is an accredited family mediator and is Principal Mediator and Managing Director of York Mediation. She is an onsite family court mediator at the Newmarket Superior Court of Justice (Family Branch) and a presenter for the Mandatory Information Program (MIP) for applicants and respondents in York Region. She is a roster mediator at the court-connected mediation rosters of Blue Hills (York Region) and mediate393 (Toronto). She is an affiliate mediator with Markham Psychologists and is a partner with the JIBC for the marketing of mediation training courses in Ontario.

Mina Vaish will be attending as a delegate to the United Nations 60<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women in New York City in March of 2016. Mina is a member of the UN committee of Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB) and has contributed to official document submissions to the UN to advocate for mediation as a preferred dispute resolution option. The theme of the Commission this year is the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

## Did you know...?

**Gail Brochu**  
French

**Angela Pickard**  
French

**Seema Jain**  
Hindi (conversational)  
Punjabi (conversational)

**Cathi Wentworth**  
French (conversational)

**Shely Polak**  
Spanish

**Cindy Holovac Leithead**  
Ukrainian (conversational)

**Samy & Rita Czarny**  
French

Many of our mediators speak different languages. We will assign the best mediator for your case. For a list of our mediators, please visit our [About Us page](#)

*to all*  
**ROSTER MEMBERS:**  
mark your calendars...

**MAY 16, 2016**

**10 HOUR UPDATE**  
For Family Mediators, Arbitrators,  
Lawyers And Parenting Coordinators:  
Power Imbalances & Family Violence

REGISTRATION IS  
**FREE\***

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

\*only available to mediate393 roster

follow us on @mediate393

## Looking for Family Law Resources? Look No Further...



An exciting new document detailing family law resources and related organizations in Ontario is available now on our website! For easier use by both professionals and the greater public, the extensive document is broken down into categories:

- “top 20” (a diverse collection of multiservice organizations)
- phone line services (including many 24/7 help and crisis lines)
- addiction
- employment services
- family services
- LGBTIQ+ services
- men’s services

- mental health
- sexual and physical health
- shelters and housing
- women’s services
- youth services
- culturally specific/multicultural resources.

The document can be found [here](#) – please, use and forward it widely! It is organized in alphabetical order, and is also searchable, making it simpler to find what you or your client is looking for. An introductory paragraph on page 2 explains that although mediate393 inc. cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in the doc, we do welcome suggestions for improvement, as well as information about additional resources to help grow our database. We are especially hoping to add more resources for men who are experiencing intimate partner violence, and a greater variety of culturally specific and/or multicultural resources.

Additionally, although inclusion of an organization does not equate an endorsement, we are always looking to make new connections! If you would like a speaker from mediate393 to come speak to your organization, or to come tell us more about the work that you do, please reach out to us at [info@mediate393.ca](mailto:info@mediate393.ca). We would love to hear from you!

from our clients

Thank you! It was hard-won, to be sure. I want you to know that you were a compassionate, caring bright spot for me in an otherwise often bleak, impersonal system: you made me feel seen. Sincere thanks to you for your assistance and kindnesses. Best wishes to both you (Caroline Felstiner) and Borzou Tabrizi.

This was a very productive way to finally settle our issues without need to go to court. Thank you for an effective, productive way to settle our issues and finally reach an agreement. Our mediator, Daniella, was wonderful! She came up with a creative solution to what may have been a stale-mate.

In the past year and a half I've dealt with FLIC and now Mediate393 and am so utterly satisfied with the level of respect, kindness and service I have received from Gail at FLIC and Akbar in mediation. I know that each of them have dealt with many questions and repetitions of varies stories and experiences of families in past years yet as they were speaking with me, I was made to feel as if it was their first time also. No condescension, no impatience with what would probably have been the thousandth time they've been approached with those same questions. It strikes me, with Gail's expertise in communication that she would make a great mediator. We, myself and my past partner have considered ourselves very lucky to have had this comforting and efficient experience.

Everything was good no complaints and the mediator worked with us regarding what is better for the child.

I would like to thank you again for the mediation. Big thanks to (the mediator) for your expertise in family law.

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## mediate393 stats

### our most recent stats tell us:

- our (free) onsite mediators handle complex cases. Across the province, mediators in the courts deal mostly with custody, access and child support (84% of issues). Our onsite mediators handle those issues too (53% of issues), with another 32 % of issues mediated onsite in Toronto's SCJ relate to spousal support and property division (compared to 4.5% across the province). We are very lucky to have some great family lawyer mediators to handle these cases.
- our subsidized mediation services (“offsite mediation”) (8 hours, fees as low as \$5 an hour) are where our mental health professionals shine, particularly in the two provincial courts at 311 Jarvis St and 47 Sheppard Ave. where we mediate a higher percentage of custody, access and child support cases than in the rest of the province.
- our settlement rates in off-site mediation are the same as the provincial average, except in our two provincial courts, where they exceed provincial averages.
- we have the confidence of judges and lawyers! Our judicial referrals to subsidized (8 hours) referrals at Toronto's Superior Court of Justice are more than double the provincial average. And our referrals from duty counsel and other lawyers are at or above the provincial average in all courts in which we work— 393 University Avenue, 311 Jarvis St and 47 Sheppard Ave. We have work to do however at the provincial courts— where our judicial referrals fall considerably below the provincial average.
- we also have work to do in getting the word out about our services. We have far fewer self-referred clients to in-court onsite mediation than the provincial average, and also far fewer referrals from duty counsel to onsite mediation at 393 University, than in other courts.
- our settlement rates in onsite mediation are a respectable 58%, but this falls below the provincial average of almost 77%. We believe this is because our onsite cases are generally more complex than those in other jurisdictions. We also do not have access to a first appearance court in Toronto, meaning that our clients are often more invested/entrenched in their court processes.
- what does it all mean? We are taking to the streets, as we begin a large-scale marketing campaign to increase public awareness of what is available in and out of Toronto's courts. Importantly: you DO NOT NEED a court case to access subsidized family mediation!
- we are an active partner in Ontario's Family Dispute Resolution Week (FDRweek), providing free public information sessions on FDR options and free resources both in and out of court.