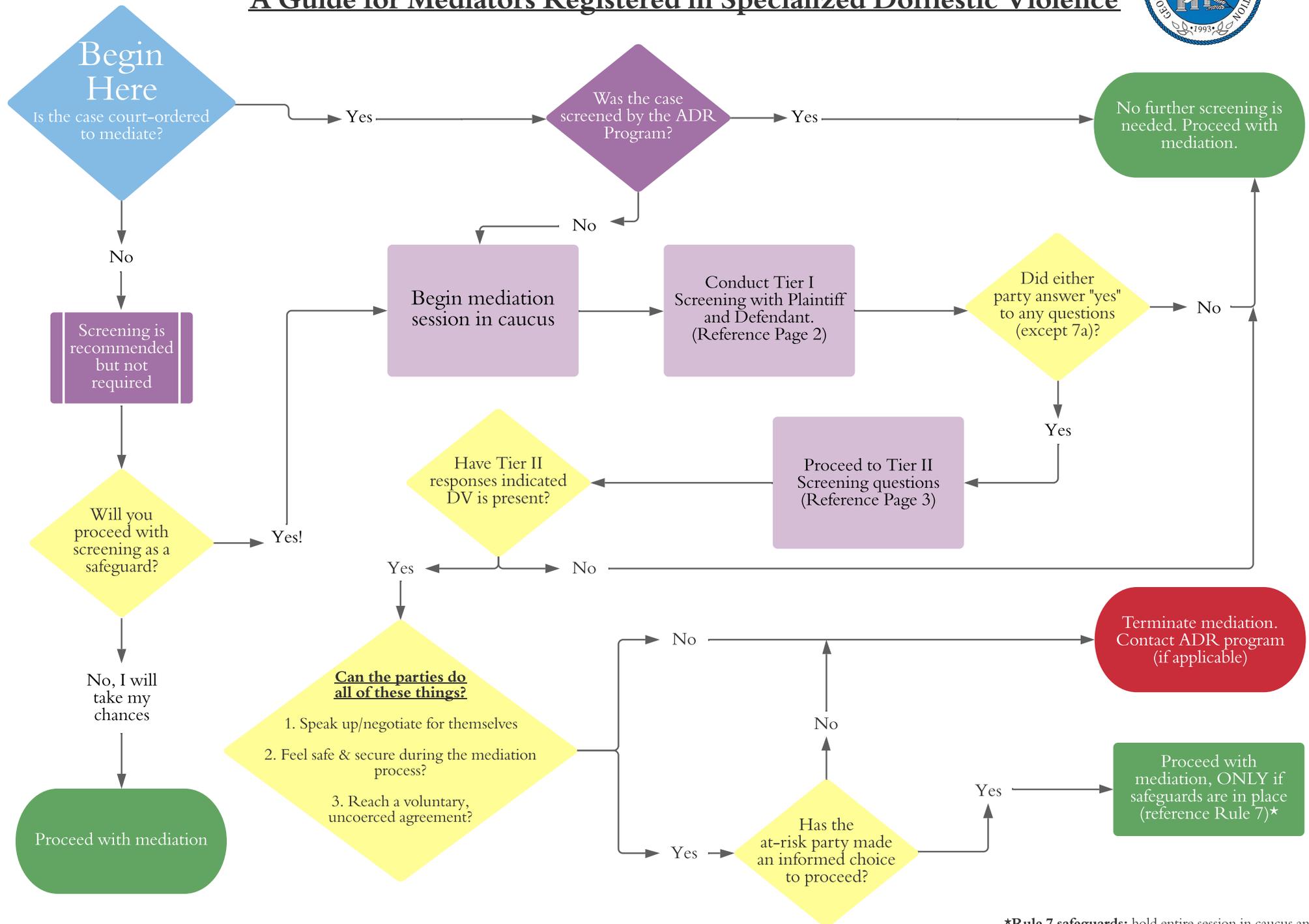


# Screening Domestic Relations Cases: A Guide for Mediators Registered in Specialized Domestic Violence





## Screening Domestic Relations Cases: Tier I Questions

Conducting Tier I screening with Plaintiff and Defendant can be done via the GODR Online Screening Tool (<https://godr.org/adr-screening/>) or using a paper questionnaire form with the following:

- 1) Is there now or has there ever been a protective order, restraining order or stalking order sought or issued for you and/or the other party?
- 2) Is the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and/or Adult Protective Services (APS) involved in this case? (Does not include requests for financial assistance).
- 3) Have you or the other party ever been arrested for an act of violence or making threats against another person?
- 4) Are you afraid of the other party?
- 5) Do you have any concerns when the other party does not get his/her/their way?
- 6) Have you or the other party ever tried or threatened to: (check all that apply)
  - a. Commit suicide
  - b. Harm the other party
  - c. Harm the children
  - d. Harm other family members
  - e. Harm family pets
  - f. Use a weapon
  - g. None of these apply
- 7) A. Are you currently living in the same home with the other party?  
B. If so, do you think you would feel safe in returning home after discussing the issues in your case in mediation?
- 8) Are there any other concerns about safety?
  - If yes, please explain.



## **Screening Domestic Relations Cases: Tier II Questions**

**Conducting Tier II screening with Plaintiff and Defendant should be done verbally, with the mediator using a paper questionnaire form with the following:**

- 1) Do you know what mediation is and why it has been ordered in your case?
- 2) What happens when you speak your mind and express your point of view to [insert name]?
- 3) Has the other party ever denied you the right to access family resources such as money, transportation, a phone, etc.?
  - If yes, please describe.
- 4) Are you afraid of disagreeing with [name]?
  - If yes, what happens when you disagree?
  - Would you feel able to disagree with [name] if the two of you were in separate rooms and the mediator worked with you one on one?
- 5) Has [name] discouraged you from spending time with friends and family?
- 6) Has the other party ever sent you repeated e-mails, calls, social media contacts or other unwanted communication after you asked him/her/them to stop? Has the other party monitored your communication, social media, or your whereabouts?
  - If yes, please explain.
- 7) Have you ever cancelled a temporary protective order or allowed one to expire against [name]?
- 8) Has [name] interfered with your ability to speak to an attorney or other advocate?
- 9) Has [name] discouraged you from working, accepting promotions, going to school, and being independent in general?
  - If yes, how so?
- 10) Have you and the other party ever hit, strangled, pushed, or slapped one another?
- 11) Do you believe that mediation will be beneficial?
  - Why or why not?