

The Parent Pledge is a partnership between Community Mediation Services, The Harlem Community Justice Center, the Human Resources Administration and the Family Court.

For more information on the Parent Pledge call 311.

**For more information on the Parent Pledge, the Mayor's Fatherhood Initiative or NYC Dads, call 311.**



© Copyright 2015, The City of New York Human Resources Administration/ Department of Social Services. For permission to reproduce all or part of this material contact the New York City Human Resources Administration.

Rev. 01/15

# THE PARENT PLEDGE



*Make the choice today.*

## THE PARENT PLEDGE

is set up to help you and your child's other parent create child support and parenting agreements. These agreements will be done outside of the court through mediation. In a comfortable community-based setting, a trained mediator will listen to you and the other parent and assist you in choosing solutions that support both parents, and most importantly, your child.

## WHY TAKE THE PLEDGE?

- Every parent wants the best for their child.
- It is important to support your child emotionally and financially. Children who have both parents actively involved in their lives are more likely to finish school, stay out of jail, avoid abusing drugs and delay having a child until adulthood.
- Raising your child is very expensive. Most families need two incomes to make ends meet.
- A child support agreement can help make sure your child receives regular child support payments, so that parents can plan and budget.
- Mediation can help parents work out a plan to share the responsibilities and joys of raising a child. This is called co-parenting.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The goal of the Parent Pledge is for you and the other parent to create a parenting and child support agreement.

To do that the program will provide you and your child's other parent with free, confidential mediation services in a relaxed, community-based setting.

Both of you will create the parenting agreement. It will be based on what you both feel is in the best interest of your child. It will also address the rights and responsibilities of both parents. These will be explained by the mediator.

The child support obligation will be based on the current income of the parent who does not live with the child (the noncustodial parent).

The final agreement will be signed by both parents.

You may go to the Family Court to file your child support agreement. The Court will usually review it on the same day if you arrive before 1 pm. They may ask you to come back if they have any questions or if they are unable to review it on the same day.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The program is not available if you are custodial parents applying for or receiving cash assistance.

Your immigration status will never be considered or reported at any time during your participation in Parent Pledge.

**“THEY  
CHOSE  
ME.”**



*Take the pledge today.*

*Give your child a secure future.*