SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Family Court Services 201 North First Street San José, California 95113 (408) 534-5760



SUPPORT PERSON FOR VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION SHEET

§6303 of the Family Code provides that it is the function of a support person to provide moral and emotional support for a person who alleges he or she is a victim of domestic violence. The person making the allegation may select any individual other than the client's attorney (§3182) to act as a support person. The support person is not present as a legal adviser and shall not give legal advice.

The Family Code provides that a support person shall be permitted to accompany a party protected by the order during any mediation orientation or mediation session, including separate mediation sessions.

A mediator may exclude a support person from a mediation session if the support person participates in the mediation session, or acts as an advocate, or the presence of a particular support person is disruptive or disrupts the process of mediation.

The presence of the support person does not waive the confidentiality of the mediation, and the support person is bound by the confidentiality of the mediation.

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