

Should I Request a Separate Early Intervention Meeting?
(This is for your consideration only,
do not return this to the court or conciliator.)

A joint meeting may not be appropriate for you if there has been a history of domestic violence, and you feel that you can not safely negotiate with the other party. Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior. It is one person scaring another into doing what the abuser wants. Abusers use physical and sexual violence, threats, money, emotion and psychological abuse to control their spouse or intimate partners and get their way. Many people don't think of themselves as victims of domestic violence. However, if you answer yes to any of the following, you may want to consider requesting a separate early intervention meetings.

- Have you ever been physically hurt or threatened by the other party?
- Have you ever been hit, kicked, slapped, pushed, or shoved by the other party?
- Has the other party threatened you with a weapon?
- Have you ever been forced or pressured to have sex when you did not want to?
- Has the other party ever physically hurt or threatened to hurt your children?
- Has the other party ever threatened to kill your friends, family or pets?
- Are you afraid of the other party?

If you think that a joint conference is not appropriate for you, call the Friend of the Court at 517-546-0230 to schedule a separate meeting. **Anything you tell court personnel is not confidential.**

Survivors of domestic violence can also call LACASA for support and services. LACASA offers confidential counseling, shelter, support groups, and safety planning to survivors of domestic violence. You can call LACASA's domestic violence hotline at (866) 522-2725.