

7 BENEFITS TO USING MEDIATION

When going through a

DIVORCE

MAR

RIAGE



ADR
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Divorce is one of the most difficult situations a family can face. As stressful as it can be to accept your marriage is over, the idea of transitioning from marriage to divorce can be overwhelming.

Dealing with the family court system can turn an amicable separation into a knock-down drag-out fight between spouses and attorneys. There are numerous families that were destroyed not because two people

no longer shared a romantic connection, but because their struggle through divorce litigation turned them into bitter enemies. Luckily, there is another way.

Divorce mediation can keep families out of court. It allows you to resolve your private family matters without involvement from judges, attorneys, and the general public. Mediation provides a sensible, respectful method for settling a divorce, even when couples struggle to communicate and get along.

What are the most important benefits of using mediation to settle a divorce?

1. Mediation is Affordable

Mediation costs less than litigation. Couples have the option of participating without individual legal representation, so their only cost is that of the mediator's fee. Even those who do choose to hire attorneys spend less over the long-haul if a trail can be avoided. This is important at a time when financial issues could be causing a great deal of stress.

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2. Mediation Saves Time

One of the primary reasons mediation is less expensive is because it takes less time. In addition to saving money, a quicker, more efficient process allows families to move forward with their new lives. Divorce is a transition, and the sooner families are able to move from a stressful phase to a new, more hopeful phase the better.



3. Mediation Puts the Couple in Control

Litigation allows a judge to determine what your life will look like once your marriage ends. In mediation, couples design their own settlement, so both will be mutually satisfied. This is not always the case in litigation.

4. Mediation is Collaborative

Couples have the option of collaborating with experts if necessary to help them create a resolution that is fair and legal. Mediated divorces can utilize financial experts, child therapists, or attorneys, so couples need not worry if they lack expertise regarding a certain issue.

5. Mediation is Voluntary

Unlike many of the cases that wind up in family court, in mediation, both spouses agree to participate and contribute to the settlement plan. Mediation is successful when everyone involved is willing to work together to reach a solution.

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Mediation allows spouses to work together to create the terms of a settlement. The process is not considered successful and complete until both spouses are satisfied with the resolution. This collaboration also helps couples learn to communicate effectively, and learn that they can successfully reach a compromise. Knowing that a compromise can be reached

helps parents face the future need for communication on children's issues with a positive attitude. Experienced mediators are able to diffuse even the most contentious situation, and bring about peace and understanding that supports communication.

The fact that both spouses choose to participate and must sign-off on the final settlement agreement increases the odds they will abide by its terms in the future.

6. Mediation Prioritizes the Most Important Aspects of a Divorce

Priorities vary from marriage to marriage, but in families with children, it is the kids that are the most important consideration. Mediation allows those who know their children best – the parents – to make the important decisions. The court system does its best to meet the needs of children, but it is tough for a total stranger to design an arrangement that is truly in your child's best interest. In mediation, all decisions about the divorce settlement can be made with the well-being of your children in mind.

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And for couples without children, priorities can be designed on a case to case basis. Property, assets, living arrangements, severing a relationship completely... no matter the concern, mediation allows the couple to make it a priority in the settlement.

7. Mediation is Creative

When it comes to settling a divorce through litigation, things are pretty standard. Though the details of each case differ, in general, divorcing couples know what to expect. Unfortunately, this one-size-fits-all approach does not work for every family. Mediation makes it possible to take a creative approach to settling a divorce. This can be especially helpful in families that have unique circumstances or special needs.



The oftentimes expected judicial approach of “sell all your assets, pay all your debts, and split what’s left” will generally destroy a family’s assets, and thus add stress to establishing separate lives. Creative mediators can help design a division of assets in a way that leaves the assets intact while still achieving an equitable distribution of debts.

Experienced Divorce Mediation

Are you considering divorce? Do you wish there were a way to make the process easier and help your family transition from marriage through divorce as smoothly as possible? Charles Geller can help.

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Charles is the Director of Mediations at ADR Mediation Center, LLC. He has more than 30 years of experience working with families who are going through the practical and emotional challenges of relationship and family changes. He is known for his creative and effective approaches to resolving conflict.

In addition to his experience as a licensed therapist, Charles is a Florida Supreme Court trained and certified mediator for family, circuit civil, and appellate mediation. He practices throughout Central Florida, and has established working relationships with area Court programs. Charles is a member of the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators, and has been conferred the advanced mediator status of Diplomat by the FAPM.

Charles' goal is to support families during one of the most difficult transitions of their life. He understands the emotional costs of family changes to the adults as well as to the children. This is one of the primary reasons he has shifted his practice to family mediation.

If you would like more information or you are ready to schedule a consultation, contact Charles at (407) 834-5800, or by email at mediations@contactADR.com.

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