

SEVEN REASONS TO USE DIVORCE MEDIATION INSTEAD OF LITIGATION



WELCOME



We are dedicated to helping you to resolve disagreements between you and your spouse in an informal and confidential and neutral place. The trained mediators/attorneys of our group have taken a pledge to become peacemakers and help families reconcile or be in agreement so that you may go forward with happiness and peace.

Our mediators have a combined experience of over 30 years of litigation and mediation in family law matters and we are convinced the best model for future success is early mediation intervention prior to or immediately after any dispute arises between a couple. We vow to save you money, heartache and hope to salvage a relationship of integrity with your spouse and continued healthy relationships with your children and significant others.

Our main goal is to empower you to make these very personal and important decisions without the need for a stranger/Judge and an adverse litigation experience. It is possible to resolve your differences in a professional and courteous fashion and reduce the emotional baggage and problems which often occur when parties divorce. We have a variety of mediation programs both Christian and secular based which will assist you in resolving your dispute.

Thank you for choosing The Farrar Law Firm and Mediation Group.



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Seven Reasons to Use Divorce Mediation Instead of Litigation



Divorce is never easy for a couple, but it can at least be easier when a lengthy, bitter dispute is avoided. Too often, couples assume their only option is the traditional route that includes courtroom battles with attorneys and judges. Luckily, there is another option.

Divorce mediation provides an alternative to contentious litigation. It not only makes the process of the divorce easier, it creates a scenario in which a divorced couple can still manage their family together over the long haul, despite the end of their romantic ties. What are some of the reasons you should choose divorce mediation instead of litigation?

1 Divorce Mediation is Less Expensive

One of the main benefits of divorce mediation is that it costs less than traditional litigation. In some cases, the only cost associated with mediation is the cost of the mediator and the fees associated with filing for divorce. This can save couples tens of thousands of dollars and is often what draws them to mediation in the first place. Even if it seems difficult to imagine working through your divorce as a team, the idea of saving money can convince people to give mediation a shot.



2 Divorce Mediation is Efficient

One of the reasons mediation is so much more affordable than litigation is because the process is efficient. It takes less time to complete the divorce and it uses fewer resources in the process. In some respects, a mediated divorce is DIY because the couple is responsible for bringing all pertinent information to the session with them. There is no need for a long discovery process and each spouse does not need to have an attorney researching and recording the details of the case. It is possible to have individual representation during mediation, but even that is cheaper than if an attorney is handling traditional divorce litigation.

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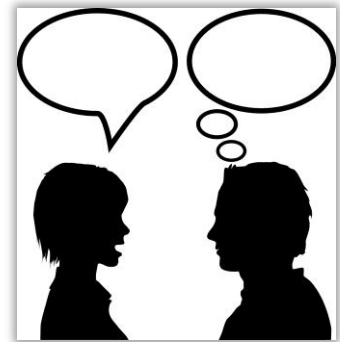


3 Divorce Mediation Maintains Civility

Though it might seem impossible to imagine at the beginning of the divorce process, it is possible to maintain civility and come out on the other side with a healthy relationship. All too often, couples enter into divorce with only mild negative feelings toward one another. The romance might be gone, but they still care for one another and could potentially remain friends once the relationship is restructured. Unfortunately, the divorce process becomes so messy all hope for any sort of relationship afterward is eliminated.

4 Divorce Mediation is Focused on Healthy Communication

Mediation allows couples to use communication and sort through various issues with an eye toward fairness and understanding. It requires compromise and provides divorcing couples with the skills needed to “problem-solve” during their divorce and into the future. Many couples find mediation helped them repair some of the breaks in their relationship, which is especially important if they share parenting responsibilities that will continue once the divorce is finalized.



5 Divorce Mediation Gives the Divorcing Couple Control

When a divorce is sorted out in the courtroom, the judge is in charge of all final decisions. Both spouses have an opportunity to state their case and make requests, but ultimately, the important decisions are made by the judge. Unfortunately, this can leave both spouses unhappy with the outcome. Additionally, it means a stranger is in charge of making decisions about important family issues, including the care of children.

Mediation puts a couple in complete control of the outcome of their divorce. The mediator is there to guide them and help them communicate effectively, but he or she is required by law to remain neutral. In order for a mediated divorce to end successfully, each spouse must agree to the terms of the divorce. This is often better for everyone involved and can be enough to encourage couples to have an open mind about compromise.

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6 Divorce Mediation is Private

Divorce should be a private family matter and the things that happened in a marriage should also be private. Unfortunately, when a marriage ends in the courtroom, this is not the case.

Mediation sessions, on the other hand, are completely private and the only thing that becomes a matter of public record is the final arrangement. The discussions that are held throughout the process never leave the mediation room. In addition to putting average couples at ease and helping them work through their issues in a comfortable setting, this can also be beneficial when a married couple owns a business together or is dealing with other private matters that would be detrimental if exposed to the public.

7 Divorce Mediation Protects the Children



Finally, mediation makes the process of divorce easier on children. For many, this is the deciding factor in choosing mediation. Because there is no long, drawn-out court battle and because parents have complete control over their children's lives in the settlement, mediation becomes the best option for the entire family.

Many mediators even include children in a portion of the sessions, so they have an opportunity to speak their mind and express their concerns and desires. Kids get to see their parents sorting through a problem together in a civil manner, instead of behaving as if they are enemies in the courtroom. Mediation allows a couple to divorce with dignity, so children are not put in a position to view either parent as the enemy. The process becomes more about transitioning than about punishment.

If you are in the process of divorce and you would like to know more about mediation, Gregory Farrar can help. He is an experienced mediator and family law attorney who can help you manage your divorce affordably and civilly. For more information or to schedule a consultation, contact Gregory at 850.434.8904 or by email at greg@farrarlawfirm.com.

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