

## Cost of Mediation

Mediation is a less stressful, non-litigating process. A successful mediation is generally much less expensive than a contested divorce. In Illinois the average cost of a litigated divorce is \$30,000. A mediated divorce averages under \$4,000 dollars. In the mediation process, the parties have the opportunity to resolve issues involving their children, division of their assets and debts, and support without having a judge decide these matters for them. When parties are able to arrive at their own agreement, they are more likely to be satisfied with the arrangement and to abide by it.

The divorce mediation process is one that significantly reduces conflict between the parties so they may be better able to raise their children together and get on with their lives.

## Does mediation really work?

In a word, yes. Research has shown that, when couples who have mediated their divorce are compared with couples who went through an adversarial/litigated divorce, mediating couples are more likely to be satisfied with the process and the results. Mediation is likely to take less time, save thousands of dollars, and the agreements are honored more often than those decided by an attorney or judge.

The main advantage of mediation is that it keeps you and your spouse in total control of your divorce. This can make all the difference in the recovery time from your divorce and the ability to move on with your life. Mediation allows the two of you to get through your divorce with less conflict than you would experience in an adversarial divorce.

## Testimonials

We completed our divorce with no lawyer involvement at all. We were out of court in less than 30 minutes. *Heidi - 7-1-2010*

Even though our divorce was emotional James helped keep our emotions in check and we moved through our divorce quickly. We now get along better than when we were married thanks to James. *Mike - 9-25-2010*

## Considering Divorce? Marriage Mediation can save Thousands of Dollars



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On the Court Approved Preferred  
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## Possible Topics in Mediation

Parenting arrangements and decision making

Support of the children

Additional parenting issues

Support of the parties

Division of personal property

Division of assets

Division of debts

Business valuation and planning

Tax planning

## THE MEDIATION PROCESS

Confidentiality

Voluntariness: agreements are the sole discretion of the parties and, generally, either party or the mediator may choose to end mediation at any time.

Expectation of full disclosure about finances

Number and length of mediation sessions

Time frame for completion of mediation

Use of attorneys and outside experts

Fees

Homework expected of the parties

## What is Mediation?

Divorce mediation is a non-adversarial and cost-effective alternative to dispute resolution in which you and your spouse, with the assistance of an impartial mediator, make decisions that affect you and your family. The decisions reached through mediation can affect you for the rest of your lives. The decisions you arrive at in mediation form the heart and base for an uncontested divorce agreement.

In mediation, the divorcing couple are the only ones who decide how agreements are reached. The mediator's main responsibility is to assist in reaching an agreed resolution, not to convey personal opinions or what he or she feels is appropriate. However, the mediator will aid in defusing emotions as well as guide both of you through the difficult issues that accompany a divorce.

## The advantages of using a mediator

Creative solutions to problems that parties may have considered impossible to resolve:

Extensive knowledge of distribution of property and debts;

Sensitivity about child custody, support issues and spousal support;

A confidential office setting to handle matters that are painful and personal rather than in public court;

Cost savings when compared to opposing attorneys litigating on your behalf.

An alternative to destructive battles which have a negative impact on children and other family members.

**Who do you want to make decisions that will affect you and your children for the rest of your lives?**

A divorce mediator, who will listen to everything you and your spouse have to say, and will assist you in reaching a win/win divorce agreement. Through divorce mediation your agreement will be uncontested in court. A judge in a court of law will make decisions based on law, precedents, and the facts as they appear to him. He cannot know all of the extenuating circumstances about you and your children.