

Benefits of Mediation

Mediation provides an opportunity for parties involved in a dispute to reach a resolution using a neutral third party. Mediation is particularly effective in family law, facilitating resolutions to contentious issues such as custody, support, parenting time, property division, alimony, or other issues. Unlike litigation, which implies that one party “wins” and the other party “loses”, mediation is about finding a solution that works for both parties. The mediator's role is to facilitate communication between the parties, not to impose solutions. Mediators do not advise, take sides, or render a judgment. Instead, the mediator will work with the parties to help them reach a mutually acceptable resolution in a voluntary and informed manner.

Benefits of Mediation can include:

- ◆ The mediator has a professional responsibility to assist each party and cannot favor the interests of one party over another.
- ◆ Mediation provides both parents the opportunity to explore parenting options with a neutral third party who is a professionally trained mediator.
- ◆ The style of the Mediation can be agreed upon by the parties involved and tailored to meet the needs of the parties.
- ◆ Mediation can provide thorough examination of the Parenting Plan that will lead to fewer issues in the future.
- ◆ Mediation can be a less expensive way to resolve issues as mediation expenses are shared between the parties, mediated agreements allow the parties to avoid the expense of litigation, and issues can be resolved post-divorce without having to go back into court.
- ◆ Mediation can allow parents a way to develop a Parenting Plan customized to their own particular situation.
- ◆ Each party has complete decision-making power over each aspect of the mediated agreement.
- ◆ Each party has the right and the opportunity to have their legal counsel review the mediated agreement and provide legal guidance and advice.