



The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.

WORKING OUT THE TERMS OF YOUR DIVORCE THROUGH MEDIATION

The least costly, less stressful approach to finalizing the terms of your divorce is through mediation.

At the Mediation Center of the Pacific, impartial mediators help divorcing couples talk and negotiate agreements on all of the issues that are required to be addressed to finalize a divorce.

HOW DOES MEDIATION WORK?

- The parties schedule a mediation session at a time convenient to them including Monday through Friday at 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m., or Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.
- Divorce mediation usually takes a minimum of two or three meetings of about 3 hours each to address and negotiate agreements on all issues
- The mediation sessions are private
- At the scheduled mediation session, the parties typically meet with a team of two mediators – a male and female
- Mediators do not “take sides,” issue decisions, or promote solutions. Instead, they work with the parties to open communication and assist them in coming up with their own ideas, plans, solutions and arrangements for themselves and their children.
- The mediators initially talk with the couple together to review the issues they would like addressed, and then they meet with each person privately to discuss concerns and ideas for reaching agreements on the issues
- At the end of each session, the parties are brought back together to review progress and memorialize agreements
- If the parties reach an agreement, it is written in plain language to incorporate into the divorce decree and/or reviewed by attorneys before signing

WHAT ISSUES CAN BE MEDIATED?

- Where the children will live and how time-sharing and co-parenting will work including: how much time the children spend with each parent; how holidays, vacations, and special days will be shared; how transportation will be handled; and how to deal with schedule changes.
- How major decisions for the children will be decided including: schooling, medical care, extracurricular activities and religious upbringing.
- How property will be divided including: whether the family home will be kept or sold; who will live in the house if it is not sold, or until the sale; how to divide or sell personal belongings; and how debts incurred during the marriage will be handled.
- Any other issues that impact the children and/or arise out of the family relationship.

HOW DO I SCHEDULE MEDIATION?

Call the Mediation Center of the Pacific at 521-6767 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and ask for the Client Services Department. A Client Service Specialist will assist you in scheduling a mediation session on a day and time that works for you and your spouse.

Generally the first mediation session is scheduled within two weeks. However, if you have an upcoming court date, the Client Services Department will strive to schedule the session sooner.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The Mediation Center charges a nominal per party, per session fee based on a sliding fee scale according to household income. The Mediation Center's fee scale is established by the Judiciary.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MEDIATION?

- Organize all of your documents and paperwork
- Complete the Asset & Debt Statement if you want to discuss property division
- Complete a draft Time Sharing Agreement if you want to discuss where the children will live and how time-sharing will work
- Be prepared to share information
- Be prepared to listen and to be open to new suggestions and creative ideas
- Focus on the needs of the children first

CLIENT FEEDBACK

"Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I was a wreck. You have helped me more than you can know. It means also that my husband and I will continue to have a good relationship long after the divorce becomes final."

Divorce – Child Custody:

"I wish I had come in when I had the problems in the past. Definitely brought me peace. Thank you."

Divorce – Assets/Debts:

"I am very happy with the mediation process. The mediators were very helpful and nice. Very happy I came."

The Mediation Center of the Pacific is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation that provides high quality mediation and dispute resolution services that are affordable and accessible.

We help people talk, negotiate and resolve conflicts creatively.