

Mediation

At its core, **mediation is a method of resolving divorce issues with the help of a neutral person** (or persons). The mediator does not represent either you or your spouse individually, but is committed to helping you reach agreements on issues.

Mediation can mean many things; from a simple one-meeting mediation process to an integration of a team of professionals to address all of your family's needs.

Which way is best? The **best method of mediation depends on you** and the particular needs of your family.

Single Mediation Session

At its most basic, mediation is simply sitting down for two hours to work on your family plan. If you have relatively simple issues, or if you have reached agreements on most issues, it is possible to get done in one meeting. In those cases, you immediately move on to drafting your final agreement in a format the court will approve.

Multiple-session Mediation

Many mediations require more than just one session. It is not uncommon for couples to spend between three and six sessions with a mediator. Because you want to develop a life plan that truly works for many years, maybe even decades, and slowing down to get it right is often a very wise investment. Often those who spent many sessions developing a plan that truly works are the most satisfied.

Mediation Teams

Some couples keep it simple and work only with a mediator. However, many people choose to have other members on their "family planning team." Simpler is not necessarily better and getting the right help can make all of the difference.

Possible members of a mediation team can include:

- Lawyers, who often help prepare or review a final mediation memorandum, especially when there are children and custody issues,
- Mental Health Professionals, who can help with a parenting plan and/or overall communication,
- Financial Experts, who can address the complexities of issues like tax planning, budgeting, business valuations, or real estate decisions,
- Real Estate or Mortgage Experts, who aid with property sales, spouse buy-outs, and refinancing.



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Ron Ousky has been working with divorcing families since 1982 and has become recognized as an international leader in developing innovative ways to help family law clients.

In 2015 the American Bar Association recognized this quality by awarding him the John W. Cooley Lawyer as Problem Solver of the Year Award.

During the past three decades, Ron has helped thousands of families find ways to resolve difficult issue through a variety of methods.

Ron believes that the choices people make during their divorce can have an impact on their lives, and the lives of their children for many years. He is dedicated to helping them make choices that will allow them to achieve their highest goals.



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